

2016 ★ **Voter Guide** ★

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By Your Local **League of Women Voters**

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2016 General Election Voter Guide

**Non-partisan Information for
National, State & County Races
November 8, 2016**

This Voter Guide was prepared by the League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area as a service to the voters. The League of Women Voters is a national non-partisan organization which encourages active and informed citizen participation in government. The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party. The League does support issues after careful study without regard to the stand of any party. League positions on issues are never indicated in Voter Guides.

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President: Denise Hartsough

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This Guide is online at: www.lwwka.org and www.vote411.org
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Vote Tuesday, November 8, 2016

Polls Open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Who May Vote?

All U.S. citizens at least 18 years of age by election day, who are registered at least 30 days before the election. The close of registration for the primary election is Tuesday, October 11.

How?

The procedure involves these steps:

1. Complete an application to vote.
2. An election inspector checks your name against the computerized list of registered voters for the precinct.
3. Show photo identification or sign an affidavit stating that you’re eligible to vote.
4. Vote by using a pen to darken the oval to the right of the candidate’s name or Yes / No in the case of a proposal.
5. Tabulate the ballot by inserting it into the optical scanner.

You may receive assistance when voting from anyone except an employer, union or their representatives. Election officials may assist you, in which case two inspectors (one from each major political party), will give assistance. Instructions in using voting equipment are available online at the Michigan Voter Information Center.

About Voter Identification

A provision of Michigan election law **requires voters to either present picture identification or sign an affidavit if they do not have picture identification with them.**

To implement this requirement, precinct election workers will ask voters for photo identification at the polls. The following are acceptable forms of photo identification (ID), assuming they are current and a picture is provided:

- Michigan driver’s license or personal ID
- Non-Michigan driver’s license or personal ID
- Federal or state government-issued ID
- U.S. passport
- Military ID
- Student ID —high school or accredited institution of higher education
- Tribal ID card

If the voter does not have an acceptable photo ID in his or her possession when offering to vote, that voter may sign an affidavit attesting that he or she is not in possession of a photo ID. A voter who completes an affidavit will be allowed to vote a regular ballot.

Write-in Candidates

To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the name of that person in the blank space provided for that office and darken the oval.

Votes for write-in candidates are counted only for persons who have declared their intent, at the appropriate jurisdiction, to be write-in candidates by 4 p.m. on the second Friday preceding the election —October 28. Names of write-in candidates will be available after that date on the Secretary of State’s Voter Information Center website—www.michigan.gov/sos.

Are You Registered & Who’s on Your Ballot?

The Voter Information Center on the Michigan Secretary of State website allows voters to confirm their registration status, obtain information on the location of their polling place, view a sample ballot and obtain other election-related information. Go to www.michigan.gov/vote. Enter your name, birth month and year, and zip code.

For Students

The State of Michigan allows students to register to vote at a permanent address (a parent’s address, for example) or at a school address. It is important to know that the address on your voter registration must match the address on your driver’s license. Registering to vote will change the address found on your driver’s license, if you register at a different address. Likewise, if you change the address on your driver’s license, the address of your voter registration will be changed to match. **You can vote only in the precinct where you are registered**, so take that into consideration when you complete a voter registration form or renew your license.

Editor’s Note

The League of Women Voters contacted candidates for biographical information and answers to questions on issues. Those known to have filed a declaration of intent to be write-in candidates at the time of printing this Voter Guide were included. Responses were limited to a specific number of characters and were truncated after the limit was reached. Responses were printed as submitted; spelling and grammar were not changed. If the candidate did not reply by the required date for publication, the words “Did not respond in time to be included” appear under the candidate’s name.

The order of parties in the Voter Guide is the same as their order on the ballot, which is determined by Michigan Election Law. Non-partisan candidates are in alphabetical order.

The LWV of the Kalamazoo Area provided information about local candidates, the LWV of Michigan about state candidates, and the LWV of the U.S. about national candidates.

LWVKA publication of these candidate statements and opinions is solely in the interest of public service. No one should construe this service as a League endorsement in any way. The League of Women Voters takes no responsibility for any of the views or facts stated by the candidates.

Absentee Ballots

A voter may apply for an absentee ballot by 2:00 pm the Saturday before the election, either by letter or in person at the appropriate city or township clerk’s office. In case of emergency after that day, contact the clerk’s office.

You are eligible to vote absentee if you:

- are 60 years of age or more.
- expect to be absent from the community in which you are registered to vote for the entire time the polls are open on election day.
- are unable to go to the polls and vote without the assistance of another person.
- cannot attend the polls because of your religious beliefs.
- are an election inspector in a precinct other than the one in which you reside.
- are confined in jail or prison awaiting arraignment or trial.

How do I receive the ballot?

You can obtain an absent voter ballot by writing to the clerk of the city or township in which you are registered to vote. Ballots cannot be supplied through telephone requests. Your written request must include:

- Your name
- The date of the election
- The address where you are registered to vote.
- The reason why you are requesting an absent voter ballot.
- The address where you wish to receive your ballot. (This must be your registration address, an address outside of your jurisdiction of registration, a hospital, or some other type of residential institution.)
- Your signature and the date of your request.

Blank absent voter ballot applications can be obtained through your city or township clerk. Members of the armed forces and their spouses and dependents, members of the Merchant Marine and their spouses and dependents, and U.S. citizens temporarily living or traveling outside the territorial limits of the United States have the opportunity to apply for and receive a ballot electronically through the Federal Voter Assistance Program (FVAP). An oath is no longer required on the Federal Post Card Application.

If you are a new Michigan voter, and you registered to vote other than at the office of a clerk or the Secretary of State, you can vote using an absentee ballot the first time you vote only if you personally apply for the ballot at your clerk’s office. This is because you are subject to the Federal first-time voter ID requirements.

When must absent voter ballots be returned to the clerk?

Voters may cast their absentee ballots in the clerk’s office until 4:00 p.m. on Monday before the election. Ballots must be received in the clerk’s office by 8:00 p.m. on election day. There are instructions included with the ballot regarding who is eligible to return a ballot on behalf of a voter. For further information, contact your city or township clerk.

About the Candidates’ Responses

Responses were limited to a specific number of characters, including letters and spaces. They were truncated after the limit was reached.

Responses are printed as submitted by the candidate. Spelling and grammar were not changed.

If the candidate did not reply by the required date for publication, the words “Did not respond in time to be included” appear under the candidate’s name. Check Vote411.com for submissions after the publication deadline.

Acknowledgment

Contributors to the League of Women Voters of Kalamazoo Area Education Fund generously provided financial support for LWV voter service efforts, including this Voter Guide.

United States President

Four-year term; limit of two terms Vote for one

How Elected: Every four years, political parties nominate candidates to run for President of the United States in a general election that is held on the first Tuesday, after the first Monday in November. Although all parties use conventions to nominate their candidates, in most states the Democratic and Republican parties also run state-wide primary elections or caucuses. The results of the primary influence how the delegates to their respective party’s convention will cast ballots for candidates for President. The degree to which the result of the primary influences the votes of delegates at conventions varies from state to state.

Duties: The President is the head of state of the United States of America and is the Chief Executive Officer and the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are described in the Constitution and federal law. Subject to Senate approval, the President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices and federal judges. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to the United States Congress. Salary: \$400,000 per year.

Questions

1. What will you do to support a vibrant economy across the U.S.?
2. What, if any, actions will you support to create a pathway to citizenship?
3. What should government do to provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?

Donald Trump

Republican

Vice-President Candidate: Michael R. Pence

Website: <http://www.donaldjtrump.com/>
Email: info@donalldrump.com
Phone: (646) 736-1779
Address: Donald J. Trump for President, INC 725 Fifth Ave New York, NY 10022

The government of the US should be focused on serving the people of this great nation, not special interests. The government now rules rather than governs. The American people want their government back and together we will make America great again.

Top Three Goals: Secure our nation by restoring our leadership in the world; restore economic growth thru tax, trade, immigration, & energy reform; restore Constitutional limits on government.

1. I have proposed tax, trade, energy and immigration reforms that will bring trillions of dollars and millions of jobs back to the United States. Through immigration reform, we will restore wage growth and reduce the related fiscal burdens on state and local governments. These reforms will help lift wages and will create opportunities for millions of Americans to get back in the workforce.
2. We must re-establish the rule of law in this country. Criminal illegal immigrants will be deported. No one should be given the gift of U.S. citizenship based on illegal behavior.
3. My administration will provide states with incentives to increase school choice options for parents and local school districts. Allowing the entrenched Washington education establishment and federal bureaucrats to leverage federal funds to dictate educational practices, curriculum and outcomes must be stopped. Control of K-12 education must be returned to parents and citizens locally.
4. We are the leader of the free world - whether we like it or not - and we must ensure we seek partners willing to make sure our national interests are defended. We only gain this respect from both adversaries and allies by having a strong military, being clear about defeating radical Islam, & stopping rogue nations from attacking/threatening our citizens, economic interests, resources and allies.
5. The best way to ensure social & racial justice is to return Constitutional limits on government & appoint Supreme Court Justices who will defend the Constitution, not rewrite it. The President must provide leadership & make sure the government works for the people. We must ensure low income & minority children learn to read at grade level & not trap them in failing schools based on zip code.

Hillary Clinton

Democrat

Vice-Presidential Candidate: Tim Kaine

Website: <http://www.hillaryclinton.com>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/hillaryclinton>
Twitter: twitter.com/HillaryClinton
Email: info@hillaryclinton.com
Phone: (646) 854-1432
Address: Hillary for America PO Box 5256 New York, NY 10185

I’m running for President to make a difference in the lives of all Americans. I’ll build an economy that works for everyone, continue my fight for children and families, and work to keep our country safe. And I’ll unite Americans to take on all the challenges we face—because we’re stronger together.

Top Three Goals: 1. Grow and strengthen our economy. 2. Curb the outsized influence of big money in American politics. 3. Ensure we have the partnerships to keep our country safe.

1. My first priority will be to grow and strengthen our economy. I will invest in good-paying jobs, expand access to higher education, encourage companies to follow policies that put families first, and fight so that everyone pays their fair share. Every American deserves a good job, a successful career, and a productive life. Together, these efforts will work to make that a reality.

Ground Rules

All qualified presidential candidates were invited to provide biographical information and responses to five specific questions. Candidates qualified if they met the following criteria:

1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for her/his Party’s nomination for President;
2. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act’s minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the FEC website; and,
3. The candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes.

Responses were limited to 400 characters and were truncated thereafter. If a candidate did not respond by the date of publication, “Candidate has not responded.” is printed.

The League of Women Voters is where hands on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Learn more at www.lwv.org and www.VOTE411.org

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4. What actions would you support the U.S. undertake to protect its interests abroad?
5. What kinds of policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice for all Americans?

2. In my first 100 days, I will introduce comprehensive immigration reform with a path to citizenship. An estimated nine million lawful permanent residents are eligible to become U.S. citizens. As President, I will work to expand fee waivers and enhance outreach, so that more of the working poor can assume the full rights and responsibilities of becoming U.S. citizens.
3. Every child deserves a high-quality education. I will double our investments in Early Head Start programs and ensure every 4-year old has access to high-quality preschool. I will do more to support our teachers, modernize our classrooms, and support STEM programs so that all public school students can learn computer science. We must give children the foundation to succeed, from pre-K to grade 12.
4. The U.S. needs to exercise leadership and shape global events rather than be shaped by them. So many of our interests—our security, our economy, and our fight against climate change—require cooperation with our friends and allies, and with countries we may agree with on some things, and disagree with on others. As President, I’ll ensure our country remains a source of leadership around the world.
5. Too many Americans still face discrimination and mistreatment. I will fight to break down barriers and build ladders of opportunity. We will reform our criminal justice system, protect transgender individuals, defend voting rights, fight environmental injustice, fight for comprehensive immigration reform, end the epidemic of gun violence, and ensure the citizens of Puerto Rico are treated equally.

Gary Johnson

Libertarian

Vice-Presidential Candidate: Bill Weld

Website: <http://www.johnsonweld.com>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/govgaryjohnson/>
Twitter: twitter.com/GovGaryJohnson
Email: Info@JohnsonWeld.com
Phone: (801) 303-8922
Address: PO Box 4422 Salt Lake City, UT 84110

I am Governor Gary Johnson and along with my running mate Governor William Weld we are honored to accept the invitation of the League of Women Voters to participate in their efforts to inform the voting American public of all options available to them during this Presidential election year.

Top Three Goals: Provide Congress a balanced budget within the first 100 days of office; Reduce (and in some cases eliminate) our military footprint abroad; Liberalize trade and economic activity.

1. Submit to Congress a balanced budget to provide a template to stop unsustainable growth of the national debt, debt that weighs on employers, entrepreneurs and the economy. Support a simpler, fairer tax code that won’t penalize productivity or investment. Fight to provide certainty in spending, taxes, and regulation so employers, entrepreneurs and investors make decisions that put people to work.
2. Ensure a pathway to citizenship for deserving immigrants by first establishing a way for non-criminal undocumented immigrants to achieve documented status. After that crucial first step, the pathway to citizenship will be the same as it is for all immigrants. No cutting the line. No unfair advantages. Just a legal status that allows immigrants to pursue the traditional path to becoming a citizen.
3. Education works best when decentralized. Since President Carter created the Dept. of Education, test scores have stagnated despite any new initiatives or spending programs. Parents and teachers make the best decisions for students, not bureaucrats at the DoE. Education is traditionally a state and local responsibility, and should remain so for innovation, best practices and even competition.
4. Above all, we must maintain a national defense that is second to none. Government’s first responsibility is to protect us from threats abroad. If attacked, we respond. Our greatest assets are economy and culture. Blue jeans and computers did more to win the Cold War than stockpiled warheads. I will pursue vigorous diplomacy based on our economic might, not idle threats and military interventions.
5. I would do everything in the Presidency’s power to end the militarization of the

United States President, continued

police. I would end the failed drug war, which unfairly targets communities of color. I would use the powers of the Federal Government to protect the civil liberties of all Americans, aggressively enforcing 14th Amendment protections. I would continue the work to help all Americans to achieve equality of opportunity.

Jill Stein

Green

Vice-President Candidate: Ajamu Baraka

Website: <http://jill2016.com>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/drjillstein>
Twitter: twitter.com/DrJillStein
Email: info@jill2016.com
Phone: (347) 425-1910
Address: 318 Franklin Ave Brooklyn, NY 11238

After a career in clinical medicine, I am now practicing political medicine, running for President to help heal our ailing nation. Your vote for me sends a clear signal that you want a new, principled politics that puts people, planet and peace over profit.

Top Three Goals: 1. Green job-creation to fight climate change. 2. A fair economy that eliminates unemployment. 3. Justice, true democracy, and respect for all human beings.

- (a) Eliminate unemployment by creating a job for every American who needs work. (b) Repeal NAFTA and other trade agreements that export our jobs overseas and create immigration surges. (c) Create 20 million green jobs to stimulate the economy improving our health by cleaning up our land, air, and water. (d) Protect consumers and small businesses from big banks and Wall Street predators.
- First, end the massive deportation schemes that have torn families apart. I would also end the so-called Secure Communities program that has led to abuse of both citizens and non-citizens. End the misguided free trade agreements and regime change wars that have forced people to emigrate for their own survival. Finally, provide a welcoming and legal path to citizenship for current immigrants.
- (a) Protect our public schools from privatization schemes that will inevitably undermine the

American dream of quality public education for all. (b) Increase federal funding of public schools to make sure all school districts have the financial resources they need to provide quality education. (c) Ensure that kids come to school ready to learn: healthy, nourished, and secure.

- Forge a new foreign policy based solidly on diplomacy, international law, respect for human rights, and consistent nonviolent support for democratic movements around the world. End the misguided policies of militarism that have produced terrorist organizations, refugee crises, failed states, and a bloated military that we can no longer afford.
- My plan to end unemployment will transform the economic life of low income communities that are now struggling with unemployment rates two or three times the national average. Coupled with my commitment to quality public schools and community empowerment, we can not just lessen racial disparity, but bring it to an end.

Other candidates: *The following candidates have qualified for the Michigan state ballot according to the Secretary of State of Michigan, but did not meet the League of Women Voters Education Fund criteria.*

Darrell L. Castle

U.S. Taxpayers

Vice-President Candidate: Scott N. Bradley

Website: castle2016.com

Emidio Mimi Soltysik

Natural Law

Vice-President Candidate: Angela Nicole Walker

Website: www.rev16.us

U.S. Congress – Michigan District 6

Two-year term Vote for one

Duties: Representatives share the responsibility with Senators for enactment of the nation’s laws as provided in the U.S. Constitution. Laws that require payment of taxes are initiated in the House of Representatives.

Qualifications: A Representative must be at least 25 years of age and a U.S. Citizen for at least 7 years. There are 435 Representatives based on Congressional districts reapportioned after each census. Michigan has 14 districts as of 2012.

Questions

- Priorities:** What are your top three national legislative priorities and how would you address them?
- Economy:** What federal policies do you support for a healthy economy and to help the broader American public improve their economic positions?
- Energy & Environment:** What policies do you support to meet U.S. energy needs while protecting our water, air and land for current and future generations?

- Elections:** What policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?
- Immigration:** What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. immigration policy?
- Health Care:** What are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. health care policies or programs?

Fred Upton

Republican. Member of Congress - Chairman, Energy & Commerce Committee. B.A. Journalism. I am proud to represent the common sense values of SW Michigan where I have gained a reputation as a bipartisan problem solver. Since 2011, I have served as Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which has broad jurisdiction over issues related to energy, the environment, health care, telecommunications, commerce, manufacturing, and trade - as well as oversight & investigations. Website: www.fredupton.com. Facebook: [UptonForAllOfUs](https://www.facebook.com/UptonForAllOfUs).

- As E & C chair, my top priority remains job creation and economic growth for Southwest Michigan. Additionally, my bipartisan 21st Century Cures initiative focuses on safely speeding up the pace of medical treatments and innovations which will save more lives, provide hope to patients and families, and keep SW Michigan on the cutting edge of medical innovations. Finally, I am fighting to protect our families from higher energy costs brought on by onerous and unnecessary regulations. I also believe in an “all of the above” energy strategy, creating good paying jobs, and moving the U.S. closer to energy independence.
- While Michigan is indeed seeing signs of economic improvement, there remains challenges for our most vulnerable families. The best thing that our government can do to help is to support a thriving economic environment that provides equal opportunities for everyone to succeed. In the 21st Century global economy, the opportunities are endless and we must position Michigan’s economy at the forefront to capitalize on these exciting opportunities.
- I continue to support a truly “all of the above” energy strategy-with North American energy independence and security we can ensure a steady supply of affordable energy to families and business in Michigan. One of my main focuses has been building an energy infrastructure for the 21st century so that we can safely and effectively move energy supplies to consumers. I am working on bipartisan pipeline safety legislation that will strengthen safety laws and hold those responsible for the spills accountable. I have a long, bipartisan record of protecting and preserving our Great Lakes for the future.
- I have broad-based support from citizens throughout Southwest Michigan and, as in years past, anticipate the support of a wide array of organizations. I am one who believes that sunlight is the best disinfectant and have supported, and will continue to support, efforts to bring greater transparency and accountability to all aspects of government. I also support the Voting Rights Act as I believe it is vitally important to the future of our democracy that all who wish to participate in elections have the ability to do so.
- Our immigration system is broken and in dire need of bipartisan reforms and I have been a leader in this effort. From trying to implement a tamper-proof guest worker program for agriculture, ensuring our border security laws are being properly followed, and improving legal immigration. We also have to decide how to deal with the millions of undocumented people who are already living and working in the United States in a way

that makes sense. Those who have been patiently waiting to enter legally should not be disadvantaged. I oppose blanket amnesty.

- As Chair of E & C, I’ve been proud of our bipartisan record of success in enacting common sense public health legislation that benefits Michigan families. I am pleased at the progress the 21st Century Cures initiative has made – which will bring our healthcare innovation ecosystem into the 21st Century by safely speeding the approval of drugs and devices. This breakthrough effort will save lives, give patients and their families hope, and help keep Michigan jobs here at home. I will also continue to be a staunch supporter of strengthening programs like Medicare & Medicaid for those who need them now and in the future.

Paul Clements

Democrat. Professor of Political Science, Western Michigan University. PhD in Public Affairs, 1996, and MA Public Affairs, 1992 Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University. BA, 1984, Harvard University, Social Studies, Magna Cum Laude. As a professor, I have studied how governments can best promote economic growth and how public programs can be made more cost effective. Now I hope to use this experience to make government work for all Americans. I have lived in Southwest Michigan for 20 years and have worked with several church and community groups to build our community through government and civic action. Website: www.clementsforcongress.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/ClementsForCongress.

- For the 21st Century to be America’s century we need to turn an economy that works for the very wealthy into one that works for the middle class and restore American democracy. My first priority is to rebuild a strong jobs economy by increasing American production, reforming taxes and trade, and improving education and infrastructure. My second priority is to strengthen democracy by getting money out of politics and getting Congress back to work for the people. My third priority is to build a sustainable future with American leadership addressing climate change.
- To rebuild the middle class, America must make more of what the world needs. I will work with business, government and labor to increase production in areas of increasing demand, like clean energy, high tech services, and food, and for fair trade deals. I will work for 21st Century education – universal access to good preschool, better K-12, debt free public university, and stronger vocational training; 21st Century infrastructure – road, rail, air, electric, communications; and leadership in science and technology. We must raise the minimum wage, strengthen Social Security, and for better health care at lower cost.
- We must rein in global warming. With the cost of solar and wind energy declining, they represent the energy of the future – clean, reliable, and locally controlled. Government should support this transition. I support removing subsidies from oil and gas industries and polluters paying for their pollution with proceeds shared among American families. Our Great Lakes

U.S. Congress — Michigan District 6, continued

- and Michigan’s abundant waters are a precious blessing it is our responsibility to protect.
- The tidal wave of money into politics is subverting our democracy and enriching the people who can afford to play in that game. This must end. I support free air time for main candidates, ending Citizens United, and campaign finance reform so our elected representatives respond to the people, not to big donors. Voters should choose their representatives – not the other way around – so we need nonpartisan redistricting. We should make it easier to vote, allowing mail-in ballots and same day registration for all voters.
 - Congressional leaders of both parties have long recognized our immigration system is broken but have not fixed it. We are a nation of immigrants, enriched by diversity, but today 11 million immigrants are living in the shadows. To strengthen families and the economy, and to reflect our human values, I support a pathway to citizenship for those who worked hard and committed no criminal violations. We need to improve border protections, and Michigan farmers need a better guest worker program. Many high-skill jobs are unfilled, so we need to do better educating Americans, reducing the need for skilled immigrants.
 - Health care is a right. I support expanding health insurance such as by expanding Medicare and Medicaid. This will cut expenses on admin and advertising. Medicare should cover ear, eye and dental care and age of eligibility should be lowered. We can increase efficiency and empower patients in post-critical care, addiction recovery, and home care for seniors. Addressing substance abuse and mental health through public health systems, not the criminal justice system, will save money and strengthen communities. Health care should support healthy outcomes, not maximize cost of care, and we should encourage healthy living.

Lorence Wenke

Libertarian. Co-Owner Wenke Greenhouses, President (retired). Western Michigan University Bachelor of Business Degree. Kalamazoo County Commissioner for 8 yrs (3 yrs as Board Chairman). Six years as a State Representative in the Michigan House of Representatives, Owner of Wenke Greenhouses with 60 acres of greenhouses with 200 employees in Michigan and Georgia. Member Farm Credit Services Board of Directors, Member Gull Lake United Methodist Church, Director MI Grower Products, Rotarian, Director Farm Credit. Website: votewenke.com. Facebook: Yes, under Lorence Wenke.

- (a) Our national debt is immoral. We are borrowing money and have no plans to repay our debt which means we are stealing from other people. The solution is a package of spending reductions and tax increases. (b) We must stop forced taxpayer support of other people’s children by offering free birth control and no taxpayer support of adults with children. (c) We must secure better management for government by reforming civil service rules and increasing

- salaries for some government employees with management skills.
- I support a balanced budget with no deficit and annual payments on our national debt. We need to negotiate free trade agreements to make them more fair for American workers. We must have legislation to promote a healthy American population such as higher taxes on alcohol and junk food and lower taxes on healthy choices. We must control the cost of higher education through better use of facilities, reduced emphasis on sports, and more scholarships for students based on academic achievement and less on sports. We should promote the use of school facilities for child care for working parents.
 - More production of energy by methods such as fracking and solar and nuclear power. I support the use of natural gas and the use of clean coal and tar sand oil. Insulation of houses and other buildings should be dramatically increased for energy savings. Vehicles should be more fuel efficient and the use of electric vehicles encouraged. Countries such as China that contribute greatly to world pollution should have a tariff placed on their products which is spent on environmental issues.
 - All money spent on elections and campaigns should be identified to the campaign, the contributor and the candidate. The contributors to campaigns on issues such as guns, energy and taxes should be identified. We should require the monthly reporting of contributions for the ten months prior to the election. I support laws requiring a voter to supply proof of the right to vote. I do not support giving citizens who commit serious crimes the right to vote even after their sentence has been completed.
 - Our nation needs a clear path to legal status for immigrants who want legal status in our country. I do not support an easy path to citizenship for immigrants or amnesty. We need to control our borders. We need to make it safe and easy to come to our country for agricultural, housekeeping, and food service worker immigrants since these are jobs that most Americans refuse to do. We need to encourage immigration of workers with skills and education that we need in America. I do not support accepting refugees from countries with terrorist problems.
 - The cost of healthcare through Medicare and Medicaid is the leading cause of our nation’s national debt. The solution will require prevention of illness through better healthcare choices. We will need to require more taxes to be paid into Medicare. We will need to require more competition among providers of medical care and drugs. We will need clarity in what we are paying for when we receive our medical bills and more choices for care and drugs for consumers. We need higher taxes on bad health choices and lower taxes on good health choices. We need to be more connected to the actual cost of our healthcare.

Michigan State House of Representatives

Two-year term Vote for one

Duties: The Michigan House of Representatives shares responsibility with the Michigan Senate to enact new laws and amend or repeal existing laws.

Qualifications: State Representatives may serve a maximum of three full terms. They must be at least 21 years of age and a registered voter in their district. There are 110 State House districts which are re-apportioned after each census.

Questions

- Priorities:** What are your top three state legislative priorities and how would you address them?
- Education:** What measures do you support/propose to achieve improved educational outcomes for students and for school districts?
- Elections:** What policy changes do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights for Michigan voters?
- Economy:** What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?
- Energy & Environment:** What actions or policies do you support to meet Michigan energy needs while protecting our water, air and land for current and future generations?

DISTRICT 60

City of Kalamazoo. Township of Kalamazoo (all except precinct 12)

Alexander Ross

Republican. Website: <http://alexross.us/>.

Did not respond to questions in time to be included.

Jon Hoadley

Democrat. State Representative (Michigan’s 60th HD), President of Badlands Strategies (public affairs firm). Bachelor of Arts in Social Relations (Public Policy), Bachelor of Arts in Women’s Studies, both from Michigan State University, 2006. I worked as the President of Badlands Strategies (public affairs firm) from 2011 to the present. I worked as Director of Advocacy at Publicus from 2009-2011 and as Executive Director of the National Stonewall Democrats from 2007 to 2009. I also managed the campaign to defend Kalamazoo’s nondiscrimination ordinance, and worked on similar campaigns in Royal Oak, South Dakota, and across the country. Website: www.JonHoadley.com. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jon.hoadley/>.

- (a) Education for today and tomorrow: Our state must pursue new revenue sources to make sure that more funding dollars end up in our classrooms. (b) An economy that works for everyone: I consistently fight for equal pay for equal work, for sensible regulations to provide the dignity and safety our working families need, and for the inclusiveness that will encourage innovators to bring jobs to Michigan. (c) Safe and sustainable communities: I’ve fought for an expanded Civil Rights act in Michigan to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, a cleaner environment, and a transparent government.
- I have demanded we increase investment in all levels of education throughout our state — dollars must begin to flow back into the classroom, and our state must expand its revenue stream for us to do so. I come from a family of teachers, and I know that with investment in preparation, and fair compensation, we will train and mobilize the next generation of teachers to inspire our children. Finally, I will work to increase Michigan’s funding of its higher education institutions so degrees and certificates are on the mind of working families, not tuition bills and debt.
- Voting in Michigan must be accurate, modern, and secure. I co-sponsored a Michigan voter bill of rights to modernize voting. I opposed the elimination of straight-ticket voting because it was a cynical attempt to lengthen lines at the polls. I have supported efforts to reduce money in politics. I advocated for term limit reform to restore institutional memory and end the legislator to lobbyist pipeline. Finally, I have been an opponent of the rampant gerrymandering in

Michigan and across the country. In fact, I am the primary sponsor of a constitutional amendment to create a nonpartisan redistricting committee

- Our state must increase its investment in early childhood, K-12, and higher education to train the next generation of innovators. Education is the key to economic growth, but a recent study concluded we are underfunding K-12 education by nearly \$1,400 per student per year. I would pay for this by ending tax breaks for businesses that have not produced job growth. Additionally, business needs talent and quality communities. We must invest more in our communities and support legislation to welcome more people through policies like outlawing discrimination.
- I have pushed for expansion of Michigan’s FOIA laws to ensure that Michiganders can scrutinize the role that governors and legislatures play in protecting polluters or shielding pipelines from scrutiny. I have supported efforts to safeguard our groundwater, stop Asian carp from coming into the Great Lakes, increase energy efficiency standards, and protect consumers from paying too much for their energy bills. Lastly, I support policies to move us to 50% renewable energy by 2030, and have consistently voted against policies that weaken our environmental protections.

Logan Fleckenstein

Libertarian. Political activist. Bachelor’s in Political science with minors in Sociology and Philosophy. I have been engaged in political activism since the age of 13 when I campaigned for some local Republican candidates. During my college years I helped start various libertarian groups on campus including a Young Americans for Liberty chapter. Website: www.logandistrict60.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/LoganFleckenstein.

- (a) People need to be able to fight back against unjust laws. One way this can be addressed is to require courts to tell juries about their right to jury nullification. (b) Police brutality and militarization needs to be stopped. One way reduced unjust murder by police is by requiring more training for police officers and by holding police accountable for their mistakes. (c) End the War on Drugs. No victim, no crime. Cannabis legalization and decriminalization models like Portugal and Switzerland have shown that they’re better ways to address drug use.
- Common Core needs to be repealed and the power to a child’s education should go back in the hands of teachers and parents. Competition among public and private schools needs to be encouraged. Competition forces schools to perform at their best. I support proposals that de-centralize and individualize education programs
- Felons no longer in jail should have voting rights restored, especially for non-violent, victimless crimes. Donations to political campaigns and super PACS should be completely transparent. Government should never enact policies that make it harder for law abiding

Michigan State House of Representatives, continued

- citizens to vote.
- Free markets have been proven to reduce poverty and create jobs. This means reducing regulations and taxes as much as possible, as well as, ending corporate welfare. This will help enable small businesses to grow. Cronyism must be addressed. No more bailouts of any kind, if a business fails it isn't the taxpayer's burden to bail them out.
 - Any sort of pollution done to the environment that causes legitimate, measurable damage should be addressed. Simply adhering to science and property rights can help deal with pollution. Michigan should legalize hemp and be open to as many new energy industries as possible. Simply holding the government and corporations accountable for the pollution and neglect they commit will greatly reduce pollution overall and motivate the market to switch to safer, less polluting alternatives.

DISTRICT 61

City of Portage. Townships of Oshtemo, Prairie Ronde, Schoolcraft, Texas.

Brandt Iden

Republican. MI State Representative- 61st District. B.A.- Kalamazoo College- Political Science/ Economics. Current- State Representative- 2 years/ Former- Kalamazoo County Commissioner-4 years/ Former- Member Kalamazoo County Brownfield Authority/ Former- Member Discover Kalamazoo Board of Directors/ Former- Member Big Brothers Big Sisters Board of Directors/ Member- Junior Achievement Board of Directors/ Small Business Owner/ Realtor. Website: <http://www.voteiden.com/>. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/voteiden/>.

- (a) Protecting MI Jobs: I will continue to reduced Michigan's unemployment & cut red tape to foster an environment friendly for job creators & their communities. (b) Protecting Communities: In response to the tragic events in our community, I passed PA 235 of 2016 to establish a Public Threat Alert system to warn our communities in the event of an imminent threat to public safety. I will continue to ensure the safety & security of our community. (c) Fostering Michigan's Future: I will continue to fight to make sure that our kids have the career skills they need to succeed in today's global business environment.
- Ensuring that our schools have the resources they need to help each of our students achieve their full potential is paramount. I am pleased to have supported the largest K-12 education budget in Michigan's history and put more resources into the hands of our teachers. I have also supported programs that provide additional assistance to struggling students and novice teachers, as well as measures designed to ensure the appropriate use of dollars designated for educating our students.
- Protecting the electoral process, ensuring transparency in campaign finances, and protecting the rights of all Michiganders to ensure their voices are heard is of the utmost importance to our democracy. Recently adopted changes to Michigan's Campaign Finance Laws – including strengthening contribution reporting requirements – was a good start and progress continues to be made to ensure that the voice of each voter is heard and protected.
- The 61st District has seen tremendous job growth over the last 5 years. I have consistently supported policies that decrease burdensome regulations on our job creators freeing them up to grow their businesses and expand job opportunities for our neighbors. Increasing our emphasis on career and tech education will also help our community as we prepare today's students for the jobs of tomorrow.
- Ensuring that Michigan's energy future is bright and secure while protecting ratepayers and our pristine Pure Michigan treasures is of vital importance. For this reason, I support energy policies that create affordable rates for our families and employers; that are adaptable to our ever-changing technological advances and Federal regulations; that ensure the reliability of our energy sources, production, and transmission; and that safeguard our water, and land for generations to come.

John Fisher

Democrat. Pastor/Oshtemo United Methodist Church. BS: Aviation Engineering Technology, Western Michigan University; MDiv: Garret Evangelical Theological Seminary. 1969: Plaster Tender, 1971: Federal, A & P license, (aircraft maintenance), 1972: Naval Flight Office Candidate (honorable discharge) 1972-1973, 1976: Machine repair/electrician. 1977 – present: United Methodist Local Church Pastor. Website: votejohnfisher.com. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VoteJohnFisher/>

- Jobs that pay enough to support a family. Fix our roads and infrastructure. Fully invest in education.
- Fully fund our public schools based upon the report of what adequate funding is. Change the formula for per-student funding so that it recognizes that some students cost more to educate than others. Work to make higher education more affordable. Change teacher evaluation tools so that they support and help teachers rather than attack and tear them down. Change the attitude toward public schools and teachers so that they are seen as the valuable assets they are, rather than the enemies.
- All campaign funding and spending should be transparent. Every dollar spent on any part of a campaign should be traceable, so that everyone knows who is spending what on a campaign. We should maximize the ease of registering for and the process of voting. Expand the ease of absentee voting and look at Oregon's model of voting by mail.
- Investing in our infrastructure will create many good jobs. These workers will then spend more money, and in turn create more jobs in Michigan. Work with business owners to help create and expand jobs. Ease the tax burden on middle-income families.
- Require investment in renewable energy. Limit hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in gas exploration and demand to know what chemicals are being used. Expand research in power storage. Maintain net metering. Replace lead service lines in our water system. Require adequate sewer treatment so that a storm surge does not cause raw sewage to be dumped into our rivers, lakes and streams.

Ryan Winfield

Libertarian. Digital Marketing Strategist at MLive Media Group. Kalamazoo Valley Community College. DKI Parking Committee 2013 – 2014. Website: www.votewinfield.com.

- (a) Civil freedoms: It is beyond me that we work within a government that believes they have the power to withhold rights of consenting adults to marry, along with other rights, just because of their preference or identification as an individual. (b) Small business: I've seen first-hand the frustration small business owners face, especially when first starting their business locally. Hurdles must be removed to encourage entrepreneurialism in our state. (c) Smaller government = less expense. Reducing redundancy in government and regulations, therefor reducing taxes on citizens.

- I believe there needs to be more emphasis placed on skilled trades within our educational system. Some of the highest paying jobs in the area belong to our great industrial companies, and I've seen up close the difficulties they face in staffing for their skilled positions. Educators need to consider more than test scores when working with students - encourage them to learn based on their interests, and work with them to understand job markets in the state before the head off to college.
- I believe that as a state, we need to do a better job of educating citizens about absentee voting, making the process easier and more obtainable. While I believe the current campaign funding tracking is fairly transparent as-is, I'm always open for more transparency to keep tabs on special interest groups, who may influence a candidate after they achieve elected office.
- I believe there are too many regulations, and redundancies, in starting small business in Michigan. In many industries, there are federal, state and local agencies that are all doing the same inspections, licensing, etc. that waste time, waste money, cause frustration, and often derail an entrepreneurial spirit. Also, many small business owners face double-taxation, paying taxes as the company on their revenue, and also paying taxes on their take home salary. Regulations need to be reduced to make it easier for business owners to avoid such pitfalls.
- We need to continue to encourage clean and renewable energy initiatives in Michigan, through tax breaks for companies trying to solve our impending energy crisis. The wind energy program at KVCC was a great addition to their campus, however all of their trained technicians are having to leave the state for jobs in that industry. Michigan needs to welcome wind and solar companies to our state and make it as easy to do business here as possible, which will help the economy with jobs while also providing an energy source that will help save our natural resources.

DISTRICT 63

Calhoun County: City of Marshall. Townships of Athens, Burlington, Clarendon, Eckford, Emmett, Fredonia, Homer, Leroy, Marengo, Marshall, Newton, Tekonsha.

Kalamazoo County: City of Galesburg. Townships Brady, Charleston, Climax, Comstock, Kalamazoo (precinct 12 only), Pavilion, Ross, Wakeshma.

David C. Maturen

Republican. State Representative / Real Estate Appraiser. Bachelor of Business Administration and Master of Public Administration from WMU. Roughly 50 years in the valuation business in the public and private sectors. Prior to State Rep: Brady Township Trustee and Kalamazoo County Commissioner (Chair 2012-20124). Former President of the Michigan Riparian Magazine. Current member of the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus of the Council of State Governments. Website: www.davematuren.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/DaveMaturen.

- Improving infrastructure – above and below ground. Stay committed to the recently adopted road plan and look for other solutions. Paying down long term debt. Set aside money each year to reduce our unfunded liabilities in pension and healthcare for retirees. It is irresponsible to leave such a legacy to our children and grandchildren. Equitable taxation practices and Tax Tribunal assessment decisions. My House Bill 5578.
- I think the most important area of emphasis should be on Career Technical Education and Early Middle College. There are thousands of good paying jobs in the manufacturing sector that go begging because our young adults lack the training and skills to fill them.
- Not sure there are any voting rights issues that need addressing. I was in favor of the tie bar that attached no reason absentee voting to the prohibition of straight party ticket voting. Campaign funding needs no changes. I do think that the public to whom the political and issue advertisements are being targeted should have the knowledge of who is funding those ads.
- Make sure that the playing field is level for all businesses. Ensure that regulations are effective for the purpose designed but not excessive.
- I support the generating of energy here in Michigan as regulated by the Public Service Commission. I encourage the expansion of renewables under the auspices of an Integrated Resources Plan as opposed to mandates as a better way to encourage the use of "all of the above" energy types. Much of the environmental protection has already come from the Federal Clean Power Plan and requirements to close many coal fired plants in the next few years.

Lynn Shiflea

Democrat

Did not respond in time to be included.

John Anthony La Pietra

Green. Attorney, solo practice – election law, Constitutional/civil rights; document review, esp. Japanese. BA Macalester College 1978 (planning/public admin). JD Cooley Law School 2008 (admin law & Constitutional law/civil rts; also studied election law, legislative process, plain-English legal writing). I've worked about 10 years each in the public, non-profit, & private sectors – and 8 years as an attorney. I manage my own budget well enough that I just bought a house for my wife and our 2-year-old as my first-ever credit purchase. And I understand government is business – but PUBLIC business, the business OF the People to be done FOR the People. So we need to make sure it's done BY the People. Website: <http://www.newmenu.org/johnanthony>. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jalp4thePeople>.

- (a) Strengthen government BY the People, boost Social Justice & Grassroots Democracy, help Michigan rise from dead last in integrity/accountability (<https://www.publicintegrity.org/2015/11/09/18427/michigan-gets-f-grade-2015-state-integrity-investigation>) by learning from best practices & improving on them to include People of all parties (or none). (b) Make long-term Sustainability a major policy goal in fields ranging from roads to energy to water. (c) Apply other Green Values: Ecological Wisdom, Non-Violence; Community-Based Economics, Decentralization, Feminism, Personal/Global Responsibility, Respect for Diversity.
- SOCIAL JUSTICE/Give all students of all backgrounds high-quality critical education meeting their needs/interests. GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY, DECENTRALIZATION/Give local people more say in how public \$\$ are spent to educate their kids as good learners/citizens. COMMUNITY-BASED ECONOMICS/State, Federal gov't help overcome varying local ability to fund education, reach fairness/equality. RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY/Fund community-targeted programs, not just cookie-cutter approaches like teaching to standardized tests. Strong public oversight of public \$\$ for charter schools/privatization. Tuition-free college, erase student debt.
- GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY, SOCIAL JUSTICE: Empower all voters to vote & only voters to replace elected officials; all votes count; robust rights of recall/referendum/initiative; non-partisan redistricting, end gerrymanders. Inform voters: access for candidates of any party

Michigan State House of Representatives, continued

- (or none) to the ballot & all public financing/forums/media/etc. Stronger FOIA/open-meeting laws, definition of & limits on conflicts of interest; disclose public officials’ finances & gifts to them. Citizen review boards for gov’t enforcement actions; end bi-partisan monopoly on gov’t posts; more. (I will accept up to \$100 from citizens, but no PAC \$\$.)
4. SOCIAL JUSTICE/Living wage (\$15/hr = starting point); equal pay for comparable work. ECOLOGICAL WISDOM, SUSTAINABILITY/Green New Deal creating jobs for 100% fully renewable energy production, sustainable use by 2030; real jobs program hiring for needed public works. COMMUNITY-BASED ECONOMICS: Gov’t purpose is ensuring general welfare; make stimulus efforts bottom-up, overseen locally. RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY: End discrimination, stop wasting talent. No economy or jobs if we don’t end fossil-fuel economy, reverse climate change. See Jill Stein platform jill2016.com/platform; GPMI platform <http://wp.me/a4Avdc-1d> for more.
5. Go beyond misnamed “Clean Power Plan” (which allows nuclear/fracking) to fully sustainable energy production & use by 2030. Encourage conservation, cut consumption, reduce “need” for exploiting/extracting energy. Ban fracking, leave fossil fuels in the ground. Clean, fresh water is a human right; Michigan must protect Great Lakes (esp. from more pipeline spills, like Enbridge in Kalamazoo River or Mackinac Straits) & ensure sustainability. New/wider roads don’t cure congestion (<http://wp.me/a4Avdc-1m>); focus on maintenance. See Jill Stein platform jill2016.com/platform; GPMI platform <http://wp.me/a4Avdc-1d> for more.
5. I support clean water infrastructure so a Flint crisis does not occur in our community, along with protecting our Great Lakes, which is an important natural resource and tourism asset.

Annie Brown

Democrat. Small Business Owner/ Homemaker/ School Board Member. Bachelor of Arts, Major in Political Science, 1983 Hope College, MI Teacher Certification, 1992 Western Michigan University, MI Fellowship with Michigan Political Leadership Program, 2011. Hired by Sen. Carl Levin in his Washington Office/South Haven Board of Education Member for 11 years/ Completed a Fellowship with Michigan Political Leadership Program, 2011. Website: www.VoteForAnnie.com. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VoteForAnnie>.

- (a) Middle Class Families – We see our expenses rising but our wages are not. We need to expand opportunities to all families in Michigan. I will work tirelessly to support pay equality and fight wage discrimination. (b) Mental Health – In the state of Michigan we are facing a shortage of beds for individuals needing inpatient care for psychiatric treatment. We need to ensure that families and veterans have a hospital nearby that can provide the proper inpatient care they require. (c) Education – Investing in our kids is the single best thing we can do for Michigan’s future.
- As a member of the South Haven Board of Education for the past 11 years, a former educator, and a Head Start Recruiter, I’ve seen first-hand how education funding cuts have made it difficult for schools to provide a world-class education to our students. In Lansing, I will work tirelessly to make sure that all of our kids’ schools get the resources they need to help all students succeed. That starts by determining what the true cost of an education is. Investing in our kids is the single best thing we can do for Michigan’s future.
- In Michigan we need to make it easier for all of our voices to be heard through voting. I would support efforts to pursue early voting, online voter registration, and automatic voter registration. While going door to door I have met many people who want to exercise their right to vote, but the process is not the most convenient for them. Michiganders should be able to vote without feeling as though it is a burden. Campaign funding needs to be more transparent. I would support the effort to decrease the campaign contribution limits to a pre 2013 level. This would help keep all candidates on a level playing field.
- I support policies that help small businesses grow and expand in Michigan to create good-paying jobs. We can do this through smart and targeted incentives, such as tax credits for businesses that hire unemployed veterans. I also support raising the minimum wage to a livable wage, which will help countless Michigan families not only make ends meet, but have some extra money to spend at local shops and businesses. I also support legislation introduced to ensure that similarly situated workers are paid the same wage. Pay equity should be the law in Michigan.
- To support Michigan’s energy needs we need to support raising the energy efficiency standard as well as increasing both public and utility investments in renewable energy. Some of our neighbors in the 66th House District are already utilizing renewable energy. I would be willing to offer tax breaks to these households who are leading our state in renewable energy. Tax breaks would encourage others to make the switch to more energy efficient sources. It is also important to promote current incentives for both homeowners and businesses in regards to renewable energy. The shoreline of the 66th House District is one of the most economically feasible areas for wind energy in the country. As a proud member of the Sierra Club I will work tirelessly to protect one of Michigan’s greatest resources, our Great Lakes.

DISTRICT 66

Kalamazoo County: City of Parchment. Townships Alamo, Cooper.
Van Buren County: Cities of Bangor, Gobles, Hartford, South Haven Van Buren County. Townships of Almena, Antwerp, Arlington, Bloomingdale, Bangor, Columbia, Covert, Decatur, Geneva, Hamilton, Hartford, Keeler, Lawrence, Paw Paw, Pine Grove, Porter, South Haven, Waverly.

Beth Griffin

Republican. County Commissioner. BA from Indiana-Purdue University at Fort Wayne IN, Masters in Education from Old Dominion University, certificate from Michigan Excellence in Public Service Series. County Commissioner, 4 years Chair of Area Agency on Aging for Region IV, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Board member, Drug Treatment Court and Recovery Court member. Endorsed by the Michigan Chamber, Southwest and State Board of Realtors, Associated Builders and Contractors, Farm Bureau. Website: www.votebethgriffin.com/index.html. Facebook: @BethGriffin66th.

- I will encourage job growth by supporting additional job training and eliminating overburdensome regulations. I will continue to address and ensure stable forms of road and bridge funding. I will support balancing the budget on time by reducing wasteful spending and focusing resources on the highest priorities.
- As an educator I oppose the federal government trying to run our schools and instead favor parental involvement, local control, and ensuring more dollars reach the classroom. I also strongly support increasing vocational training in order to help fill the jobs in the construction or trades. As a parent and teacher, I also am greatly concerned about rising college tuition rates and affordability. I look forward to dialogue about this issue.
- None at this time.
- I support policies that help small businesses, farms, and job creators grow, including reducing red tape, a competitive tax environment and well-trained workforce.

State Board of Education

Eight-year term Vote for up to two

Duties: The State Board of Education has eight members and has leadership and general supervision responsibility over all public education, including adult education and instructional programs in state institutions, except institutions of higher education granting baccalaureate degrees. It shall serve as the general planning and coordinating body for all public education, including higher education, and shall advise the legislature as to the financial requirements in connection therewith. It shall appoint a Superintendent of Public Instruction who shall be responsible for the execution of its policies.

Questions

- Describe your qualifications and experience for State Board of Education and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset?
- Michigan has been listed as one of the lowest performing school systems in the US. What can be done to stop this downward slide which jeopardizes our students’ and our state’s future economic strength?
- What are the most pressing issues facing the State Board of Education and what actions would you take regarding them?

Tom McMillin

Republican. Certified Public Accountant. Bachelor’s Degree, Accounting/Economics from University of Michigan. Website: www.tom4sbe.com.

- A father, husband, CPA, former State representative and chairman of the House Education Committee and former President of the board of a charter school. If elected, I will seek to push education authority out of Washington and Lansing and down to the local level – to local teachers and parents, who know what is best for a child’s education. I would be an asset on the Board in many ways. As a CPA, I can provide needed oversight of how taxpayer dollars are spent on education. I led the effort in the legislature to try to stop Common Core in Michigan and will lead the repeal effort on the State Board of Education.
- Focusing on how students in Michigan perform on one test on one day is NOT the best way to determine how our schools are performing. I trust teachers and parents to determine how a student is doing, not arbitrary tests aligned to questionable standards or bad standards in the case of Common Core. Further, the creativity and ingenuity of our students diminishes greatly when the emphasis is on tests to form comparisons. Consider other countries, where we’re also told we’re falling behind - their students are great test takers but cannot think outside the test. Creativity and innovation are more important.
- The State Board needs to reverse its drive to centralize education and instead, push authority back to the local level, where teachers and parents know what is best for students. Repealing Common Core and the national science standards would be a good start. The State Superintendent’s recent efforts to make the statewide test more high-stakes, which leads to more “teaching to the test” and less on what is best for students, should be opposed. Reversing the recent outrageous decision by the Board to approve guidance to allow boys into girls’ bathrooms and locker rooms (“transgender policy”) is also needed.

Nikki Snyder

Republican. Part-Time Faculty, Washtenaw Community College; Lactation Consultant, Providence Park Hospital. AAP, Washtenaw Community College; BSN, Eastern Michigan University; IBCLE, in progress. Website: <http://NikkiSnyder.net>. Facebook: <http://NikkiSnyderSBOE>. Twitter: twitter.com/NikkiSnyderSBOE.

- First, as a parent of three children, one of which has an IEP through our local school district and another which has a physical disability, I bring unique experience and am ready to advocate for kids with disabilities. I have also been active at the local and state level in key areas of education including protecting local control and attending meetings and participating in public comment regularly. I am also an educator myself. I teach Fundamentals of Nursing and OB Lab at Washtenaw Community College and have had an opportunity to experience firsthand the quality of K-12 education our kids graduate with.
- I think one of the most important things we can do to address Michigan’s problem of achievement in education is to talk about it. We need to address the factors that affect kids in tapping into their own potential. We need to value the importance of parents in the home and get close to the people that surround the problems and get them involved. If we don’t talk about achievement, study the data that speaks to our performance and involve those close to our problems, we won’t improve on low performance. We also need leadership that is transparent and accountable to the
- The most pressing issue in this office and in education today is shifting the conversation to the importance of the quality of education for our students. By focusing on family through protecting parental rights, local control through electing responsible leaders and those with special needs by tracking our special education dollars, we can shift the conversation in the ways needed to improve education in Michigan.

State Board of Education, continued

Ish Ahmed

Democrat. Senior Advisor to the Chancellor, University of Michigan Dearborn. Bachelor’s Degree in Education and Certified Teacher. Website: www.ismaelforboard.com. Facebook: <http://https://www.facebook.com/ismaelahmedstateboard/>.

1. I have been engaged in issues regarding education my whole life. I and wife Margaret (a teacher), our five children, and six grandchildren have all gone to public schools. I helped found ACCESS, the largest Arab American human services agency in the country. As its Director, we launched dozens of education programs both nationally and locally. Later, as Director of the Michigan Department of Human Services, I supported early education programs for low income families. Now at U of M-D, I work with the students and faculty to grow university access and community impact. Finally, I was a member of the UAW for 12 years.
2. We need to put the PUBLIC back in public schools. When parents, teachers, and local elected officials are the decision makers, we get the kind of community approach that strengthens our neighborhood schools. We need a system of truly EQUAL EDUCATION no matter what your zip code with equal funding, local control, and additional supports for children with disabilities. We also need a more rational approach to charter schools that does not undermine public education. Finally, we need to assure every student has a great start by universalizing early education and making college affordable, no matter your income.
3. The two most important issues we face in Michigan are the assurance of a creative, functional, well-funded education system and an inclusive society that provides equal opportunity no matter what your color, income, religion, sex or sexual preference. Job one is to engage our communities in the decision making about how to achieve these goals. I would work to strengthen the public education system through equal and adequate funding. I would oppose the emergency manager laws that take power away from teachers, parents and local elected officials and would hold charter schools to the same standards as public schools.

John Austin

Democrat. Director of the Michigan Economic Center. Masters in Public Administration, Harvard University John F Kennedy School of Government, ‘87-’90; BA in Econ and Political Science with High Honors and Phi Beta Kappa, Swarthmore College, ‘80-’83. Website: <http://AustinForMichigan.com>. Facebook: <http://https://www.facebook.com/AustinForMichigan>.

1. Over a 25-year career working in government, running education non-profits, and serving as a leading state and national economic policy expert with the Brookings Institution and Michigan Economic Center, I have made education as an economic engine my primary focus. As President of the Michigan Board of Education I have led efforts to reform our education system. The Cherry Commission I led brought new high school requirements, launched college Promise programs, and created the No Worker Left Behind and Michigan Merit Scholarship to help pay for higher ed for all. I’m running to build on the important work we’ve begun.
2. Top performing states invest in public education, but Michigan has reduced its education budget by more than 25% over the last decade. High performing states spend on educator skill building so teachers are able to deliver on high standards. They also invest more in students with greater learning needs, to close achievement gaps by race and income. Michigan’s proliferation of charters and virtual schools without quality control has wreaked havoc on student learning. Michigan must insist all school are of quality so students have access to good schools and taxpayer dollars aren’t wasted on schools that don’t perform.
3. (a) Reforming our school funding model, changing our resource allocation strategy to focus on what works, and funding students based on their particular needs. (b) Closing large achievement and performance gaps by race, socioeconomic status, and among differentially situated learners (for example, special education and ESL students). (c) Remaking Michigan’s charter, virtual learning and school choice policy to ensure quality control over all educational offerings and provide an effective learning environment for all children.

Scotty Boman

Libertarian. Science and Mathematics Professor at Henry Ford College, Macomb Com Col & Wayne Co.Com Col Dist. Wayne State U: Teaching Certificate (1998) and MAT (1999) Western Michigan U: MA in Physics (1987), and BS (1985) Majors: Physics and Philosophy. Minor: Mathematics. Website: <https://www.politicalbank.com/find-candidates/scotty-boman>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/scottyboman>. Twitter: twitter.com/boman2012.

1. I’ve been a professional educator for 20 years. I served on the Wayne State U. Student Council in 1999. I was Chair of the Libertarian Party of Michigan in 2006. My most important qualification is that I am a professional educator who recognizes the failure of compulsory education run from Lansing. Of course I can’t change that directly, but I can be an advocate for reform. I support returning the amount of money parents would spend on public schools to parents who wish to enroll their children in private schools. The same for parents who wish to use these funds for home schooling purposes.
2. Over-specialization is the primary cause of extinction. We need to diversify and move away from the top-down approach that seeks to standardize education. One size does not fit all. Central control caused the downward slide. I support returning the amount of money parents would spend on public schools to parents who wish to enroll their children in private schools. The same for parents who wish to use these funds for home schooling purposes. This is a compromise. Ideally politician would not intervene in the education process and people would not have that money stolen from them by the government for that purpose.
3. (a) Over-standardization: Issue guidelines that encourage schools to be laboratories of innovation. Encourage distance learning opportunities that would be accessible by traditional students and home-schooled students alike. Civics curricula should be inclusive and not fixated on promoting only two parties. (b) Coercive funding mechanisms: Advise the legislature on initiatives to restore local and parental control. People should not be forced to pay for education they don’t use. (c) Safety: “Gun-Free Zones” are favored by terrorists. Permit people legally qualified to carry firearms elsewhere to carry them in schools.

Bill Hall

Libertarian. Commercial real estate law attorney/Partner, Warner Norcross & Judd, Michigan’s 2d largest law firm. Graduate, Northwestern University School of Law, Chicago, IL, J.D., cum laude and Order of the Coif, 1981; Wabash College, Crawfordsville, IN, A.B., magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, 1978. Facebook: <http://https://www.facebook.com/Bill-Hall-for-Michigan-State-Board-of-Education-283513212017001/?fref=nf>.

1. Attorney/partner in Warner Norcross & Judd, Michigan’s 2d largest law firm, specializing in commercial real estate law with 35 years’ experience advising individuals, businesses, nonprofit organizations. Managed firm’s Real Estate Services Group for more than 10 years, about 40 attorneys/paralegals. Listed in The Best Lawyers in America since 1995. Served on many nonprofit boards, Boy Scout leader since 1994, now Scoutmaster, Rockford Troop 282.

- Honors graduate, Northwestern University School of Law and Wabash College. Committed to improving education through freedom of choice and fiscal responsibility.
2. Support freedom of choice in education. Competition from charter and private schools and home schooling pushes traditional public schools to innovate and better educate, and saves taxpayer dollars. Don’t mandate a national “common core” curriculum. Give schools more freedom to choose their own social policies. Support fiscal responsibility. Address the unfunded school pension crisis by replacing defined benefit with defined contribution plans, letting poorly performing schools fail rather than bailing them out, and smartly re-deploying funds to focus on academic achievement.
 3. Dismal education results – Apply consistent M-STEP testing standards to measure progress and identify and address failing schools and teachers. Federal mandates (common core, transgender rights, etc.) – Leave decisions to local school districts, teachers and parents. Fiscal Responsibility – freeze participation in existing underfunded defined benefit pension plans and shift future contributions to defined contribution plans; don’t bail out failing schools; re-purpose funds to improve academics and pay teachers, not fund sports and administrators.

Karen Adams

U.S. Taxpayers
Did not respond in time to be included.

Douglas Levesque

U.S. Taxpayers. website: <http://electlevesque.com/>.
Did not respond to questions in time to be included.

Derek M Grigsby

Green. Part time employee of Emmet County, Michigan. Facebook: <http://Derek M. Grigsby>.

1. I’m qualified because I have a sound logical thinking mind (this is all anyone who seeks to serve the public needs). My experience has come from attending schools in Detroit Michigan for 20 years. What I bring to the board is a mind, soul and heart that truly cares about all students regardless of their social and or economic background.
2. First of all our children’s education should not be tied to economic growth. To me, education is to enlighten the mind to its full potential !! (That’s it). Our minds and our children’s minds should not be trained and educated for others to use for their economic benefit, which is how it is now.
3. What I see is underfunding, disrespectful and uncaring attitudes on the part of our education servants. The people in charge treat our children and adults for that matter, as commodities to be bought and sold. That must change. Another issue that ties in with that is the privatization of education that has manifested itself in Charter Schools. Education MUST be free and accessible to all. Charter schools are a Trojan Horse that is destroying the future of many of our kids. Making sure all schools are adequately funded and showing students that they are loved and respected no matter what level of understanding.

Sherry A. Wells

Green. Attorney, writer/author, small business owner: Lawells Publishing, public speaker, volunteer. Grand Rapids Community College–Assoc. Arts.; M.S.U. – B.A. in Education, minors: Spanish, English, Political Science; Wayne State Univ. Law School-J.D. Website: www.sherryawells.net. Facebook: <http://Sherry A Wells>.

1. I am a life-long Michigander, schooled in Detroit and rural Kent County. An alleged “teacher surplus” kept me from using my teacher’s certificate. I instructed paralegal law at O. U. and Comm. College; wrote a text and guide. I taught Esperanto to varied ages; presented at foreign language teacher conferences. I was an involved parent. I volunteer in the Detroit and Metro. region. I did “homework” beyond most when I ran for local school board, was elected to and chaired a city commission. My education, experience, passion and energy make me an asset.
2. Communities not corporations should be running schools. Schools should be returned to their communities, which can best determine the wrap-around services needed by their own students for the best achievement. Elected school boards, no charters, no emergency managers, no high-stakes testing which enriches corporations. Education is crucial to the general economy and to the personal economic status of each resident and is therefore a “common good,” like police, fire, roads, transit, and trash pickup and should be well-financed.
3. The most pressing is to return the Office of School Reform and Design to the Board. That office can research, study, approve and supervise new methods instead of methods being a scam rationale for charters. The Michigan Constitution charged the Board with policy-making and advising the legislature as to financing of schools and its expertise MUST be heeded. I will continue going on the road to educate residents about these issues and urge the election of responsible and responsive legislators.

Mary Anne Hering

Working Class. College Teacher, Henry Ford College. B.A, University of Illinois, Chicago (UIC). M.A. Ecological Psychology, Michigan State University. Campaign website: www.workingclassfight.com/party.

1. As a long-time teacher, several generations of people in the Detroit Metro area have come through my classroom. I have been a steadfast advocate for students and their families, the support staff of the colleges, as well as part-time teachers, who make up the backbone of the teaching staff of all colleges. My candidacy can give voice to workers who see their children deprived of a decent education because the state cuts money from public education. I can speak for teachers and other employees who are deprived of the means they need to educate children and whose wages and benefits are reduced because of those cuts.
2. The lowest performing schools are in the poorest communities. Put a stop to tax breaks to corporations and billionaires. Stop paying on the debt that the Emergency managers accumulated. There is more than enough money in this society to fund way beyond the “base cost expenditure” per child recently recommended by the state-commissioned adequacy study. It took a social movement of working class people to get public education for their children in the first place. It will take another social fight to make sure that public money should be spent on public services and to guarantee an excellent education for ALL children.
3. Crumbling schools. Attacks on teachers and support staff. The handing over of public money to for-profit charter schools. Low test scores in the districts where the least amount of money is spent/child. The board, by itself, cannot solve these problems. My priority would be to fight to put a stop to any more budget cuts and attacks on public education. I would try to organize people, from students and their parents, from teachers to custodians, to stand together and demand that the money we pay in taxes should go for what it is we need in our schools and communities. And demand full, high funding, in all districts.

University of Michigan Board of Regents

Eight-year term Vote for up to two

Duties: The University of Michigan Board of Regents has eight members and has general supervision of the university and the control and direction of all expenditures from the institution’s funds. The board shall elect a university president who shall be the principal executive officer.

Questions

- 1. Describe your qualifications and experience for the University Board and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset?
- 2. What recommendations would you propose to make university attendance more afford-

Carl Meyers

Republican. Raymond James & Associates Senior Vice President, Investments Financial Advisor, WMS. University of Michigan-Dearborn. School of Business, BSA. 1979. Website: See Facebook page for biography, positions and commitment to freezing tuition at U of M. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/carl.meyers.10>.

- 1. As a U of M Regent, I will call for an immediate freeze in tuition for Michigan resident undergraduate students. Higher education is out of reach for most, without family sacrifice and crippling student debt. It’s time to make the University of Michigan affordable again for all students. My thirty-plus years of experience in finance, investment management and board governance will be an asset as the University addresses continued budgetary and tuition challenges. In addition, my knowledge of investment and portfolio management will be an asset in oversight of the University’s 10-billion-dollar endowment.
- 2. Freezing tuition will be the first step in making U of M attendance more affordable, and begin the process of reducing the necessity of stifling student debt. My Democratic opponents, Regents Deitch and Illich, have failed to lead on this issue. U of M is now one of the most expensive public universities in the country. Over the last 15 years we have seen a continuous rise in the budget and tuition that far exceeded the rate of inflation or increase in family wages. The Board and University must exercise fiscal discipline, eliminate waste and redundancy and seek efficiencies in the delivery of education.
- 3. The greatest challenge facing U of M is maintaining academic excellence and stature in a constrained budgetary environment. The Board must control the growth of the budget to achieve affordability, inclusion and diversity. U of M should be more open and transparent in governance and fulfillment of the academic mission. The complete budget should be available online, and all Board meetings be open and digitally available. The University must be financially and academically accessible for all students. Michigan students should be considered first. The number of out of state students admitted should be reduced.

Ron Weiser

Republican. Retired. UofM - Ross School of Business BBA, 1966 (Bachelor of Business Administration). Website: www.ronforregent.com. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/RonWeiserForRegent>. Twitter: twitter.com/ronaldweiser.

- 1. I believe that I will bring a unique set of skills to the University of Michigan Board. As an alumnus and former student athlete, I understand the needs and concerns of students and alumni of the University. My experience as an entrepreneur and business owner has taught me a great deal about how to manage budgets and staff. My time as the US Ambassador to Slovakia taught me how to work with a large bureaucracy. This combination of skills has prepared me to deal with the major issues that the University will be dealing with over the next few years.
- 2. The first step to controlling the cost of tuition is to trim the fat and waste in the University budget. My experience as a business owner and Ambassador will allow me to look at the budget with a critical eye and find areas that can be trimmed, especially from administrative personnel and expenses. The University must also increase opportunities at the Flint and Dearborn campuses. The same classes and programs should be offered at all campuses so that students who cannot afford to live in Ann Arbor have the same educational experience. This can be accomplished with expanded online learning.
- 3. Lack of Transparency - The University should hold all Board meetings in Michigan, publish accurate and timely records of the meetings and comply with the Open Meetings Act. Cost to in-state students - See above Diversity of thought - We should encourage all of our students to debate and defend their ideas and beliefs. True growth comes from vigorous and respectful debate and listening.

Lawrence B. Deitch

Democrat. Senior Partner in one of Michigan’s most prestigious law firms. J.D., University of Michigan Law School, 1972 | B.A., University of Michigan, 1969. Website: <http://votedeitch.com>. Facebook: <http://facebook.com/VoteDeitch>.

- 1. I have been privileged to serve for almost 24 years on the University of Michigan Board of Regents. I do this work because I love it, I have helped make Michigan better than when I started, and I care deeply about the institution and the people that it serves. In my first three terms as Regent I have: co-led the effort to add sexual orientation to the University’s anti-discrimination policy, fought for the University to be accessible to students of all backgrounds by committing to generous financial aid, and passionately advocated for free speech. I intend to help take Michigan to even greater heights of excellence.
- 2. The state of Michigan has disinvested in universities over the last 30 years. In my time on the board I have voted for tuition increases and against them. I have looked at every vote as requiring striking a balance between maintaining quality and controlling cost. With inflation and increased enrollment, this disinvestment has made it hard on universities. I fight to maintain the excellence of our university, and this means that we rely on tuition in order to provide our students with the best education and generous financial aid to those who need it.
- 3. One of the most pressing issues facing our university is disinvestment from the state government. We are continually making improvements to ensure that students and faculty are given the support they need, which does impact tuition. However, according to FiveThirtyEight, “at most, about a quarter of the increase in college tuition since 2000 can be attributed to rising faculty salaries, improved amenities and administrative bloat. By comparison, the decline in state support accounts for about three-quarters of the rising cost of college.” This means that where our state government falls short, tuition has to increase.

Denise Ilitch

Democrat. President of Ilitch Enterprises and co-owner of 220 Restaurant Hospitality. The first in her family of seven children to go to college, Denise received her B.A. from the University of Michigan in 1977 and her J.D. from the University of Detroit in 1980. Website: <http://www.ilitchforregent.com/>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Votellitch/>.

- 1. Growing up, working in our family’s first small business, I learned the value of hard work. And, as the first in my family to go to college, I understand the value of a higher education. I want there to be an affordable, accessible, and quality education available to every student to pur-

- able and reduce the burden of student financial debt?
- 3. What are the most pressing issues facing this university today and what is your position on those issues?

- sue his or her dreams. As a businesswoman and dedicated public servant, I bring the values and business-based lens to all that we do – asking tough questions and providing unusual approaches for problem-solving.
- 2. I’ve voted against tuition increases 6 times. I’ve challenged us to find ways to avoid duplication of services and eliminate waste. Furthermore, I have called on the university to form a University Commission on Alternative Revenue to find non-tuition sources of revenue. I’m glad this issue has received much attention in the presidential contest and I will work with anyone at the federal level who is open to creating a carefully constructed system that keeps costs under control, both for students and taxpayers – and incentivizes states to be a part of the solution.
- 3. We need to ensure that college is affordable for all and to deal with the devastating problem of student debt. The cost of college should not deter students from applying to the University of Michigan. I have voted against tuition increases six times and have called for a new University Commission on Alternative Revenue to find new non-tuition sources of revenue to fund the University. I have also advocated for student admissions policies that ensure our campus is rich with a qualified and diverse student body, and for more investment in campus safety programs.

James Lewis Hudler

Libertarian
Did not respond in time to be included.

John Jascob

Libertarian. Associate Managing Editor, Wolters Kluwer Legal and Regulatory U.S. A.B., University of Michigan (1987); M.A.T., University of Massachusetts Amherst (1990); J.D., Concord University School of Law (2002); LL.M., University of Alabama School of Law (2015). Website: www.politicalbank.com/find-candidates/john-jascob.

- 1. I am running because I am deeply committed to the value of a liberal arts education and the importance of free academic inquiry in a free society. I will bring to the board a background in the areas of law, finance, and education. I work as a securities law editor at a leading legal publisher, after having spent many years in financial services, and I previously taught Latin at both the university and secondary levels. I am a member of the State Bar of California, Phi Beta Kappa, and American Mensa. A lifelong learner, I recently completed an LL.M. in Business Transactions at the University of Alabama School of Law.
- 2. The cost of university attendance has skyrocketed over the past generation, forcing many students from middle and lower income families to incur crushing levels of debt to obtain a college degree. Similarly, taxpayers face the prospect of increasing tax burdens to fund a state-sponsored institution that is largely immune from market forces. As Regent, I will oppose tuition increases, while seeking to reduce administrative costs by privatizing non-essential, non-academic services. I also advocate decentralizing the Ann Arbor, Dearborn, and Flint campuses to reduce overhead and increase student and faculty autonomy.
- 3. First, the University must zealously protect free speech and open debate on campus and resist attempts to silence unpopular points of view. I strongly oppose speech codes or other attempts at prohibiting expression protected by the First Amendment. Second, tuition has increased by more than 40 percent over just the past ten years, foreclosing educational opportunities for many potential students. I will oppose further tuition increases, while advocating privatization, decentralization, and student cooperatives to reduce costs and increase student and faculty participation in university governance.

Audra Driscoll

U.S. Taxpayers. Administrative position - 14 yrs experience. Bedford Sr. High School, 1991 University of Toledo, BA. 1998 University of Toledo, College of Law. Facebook: <http://https://www.facebook.com/VoteForAudraDriscoll2016/>.

- 1. I want to represent ALL of who make the University an outstanding educational institution. Experience: I cohesively work with several teams to service a multi-state territory that provides comprehensive quality care to both external and internal clients while adhering to a budget and providing a positive work environment. Asset – I have the ability and the knowledge to apply my skill set and experience as a Regent for the University of Michigan.
- 2. Students are the backbone of any university. It’s why the University of Michigan was created in 1817, to provide an outstanding education. I propose working collectively with state and local governments to provide the legislative wherewithal that will encourage private and industry with tax incentives to donate generously to the University in forms of grants and scholarships.
- 3. Realizing my vote is crucial to the decision making process in not only the day to day operations of the University, but to present and future policies and how they will not only impact the University but the local and state communities as well. As a Regent - I am here to represent ALL of the University.

Richard A Hewer

U.S. Taxpayers. Associate Professor at Ferris State University. BBA University of Michigan, Dearborn; MBA Grand Valley State University.

- 1. I believe my background as an alumnus of the University of Michigan Dearborn, professor, parent, and grandparent will provide a unique and needed voice on the Board of Regents.
- 2. Obtain better funding for students from Michigan, from the state of Michigan.
- 3. (a) Maintaining the Ann Arbor Campus’ position as one of the top universities in the world. (b) Improving the Dearborn and Flint Campuses to better meet the needs of Michigan residents. (c) Obtain better funding for students from Michigan, from the state of Michigan. (d) Expand university-contracted military research and ROTC programs. (e) Expand Online education and free classes. (f) Expand instruction to private companies to increase training and income for students and faculty.

Latham Redding

Green
Did not respond in time to be included.

Bridgette Abraham-Guzman

Natural Law
Did not respond in time to be included.

Michigan State Board of Trustees

Eight-year term Vote for up to two

Duties: The Michigan State Board of Trustees has eight members and has general supervision of the university and the control and direction of all expenditures from the institution’s funds. The board shall elect a university president who shall be the principal executive officer.

Questions

1. Describe your qualifications and experience for the University Board and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset?
2. What recommendations would you propose to make university attendance more affordable and reduce the burden of student financial debt?
3. What are the most pressing issues facing this university today and what is your position on those issues?

William Deary

Republican. Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer, Great Lakes Caring Home Health and Hospice. B.A., Education, Mathematics and Science- Michigan State University M.A., Educational Psychology, Psychometrics- Michigan State University. Website: www.deary4msu.com. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100004326091710>. Twitter: twitter.com/deary4msu.

1. I am running for MSU Board of Trustees because I am concerned the University is becoming unavailable and unaffordable to Michigan residents and I believe we need to make in-state students and their families a top priority again. I have spent the past 40 years in business, including the past 20 at Great Lakes Caring Home Health and Hospice in Jackson, which I co-founded in 1994 with my wife Cherilyn. Over that time I have built and refined those skills, qualities and principles necessary to operate a successful business. These are the same qualities that are needed to manage and solve the problems facing MSU.
2. As a member of the MSU Board of Trustees I will lead the effort to freeze in-state tuition. Freezing tuition will be a major step forward in terms of making the University affordable; giving students relief from the significant annual tuition increases they’ve faced over the last decade. We cannot forget that MSU is a state university supported by Michigan taxpayers. In-state tuition rates must reflect the commitment and investment residents have made in the University and not price them, their children or grandchildren out of obtaining an MSU education.
3. I believe the most pressing issues facing MSU are 1) escalating in-state tuition rates and 2) the increasing acceptance of the University on out-of-state and out-of-country students because they pay higher tuition. We must embrace equally qualified in-state students who are currently being squeezed by recurring annual tuition rate increases. I will propose and lead the effort to freeze in-state tuition. I will also propose and lead when it comes to capping non-resident student enrollment. When equally qualified, in-state students, should be admitted over non-resident students. Let’s keep our homegrown talent in MI.

Dan Kelly

Republican. Attorney. Juris Doctorate from University of Detroit - School of Law. Website: <http://www.electdankelly.com/>. Facebook: <http://Dan Kelly for MSU Trustee>. Twitter: twitter.com/dankellymsu.

1. For approximately 28 years I have been an attorney, primarily representing school boards and local municipalities. For the past six years I have sat on the Oakland Community College Board of Trustees. For eight years I sat on the Independence Township Board of Trustees, and two years on its Planning Commission. Given my experience, there is not a significant issue in higher education that I have not studied and dealt with.
2. Tuition is not the problem, it is the chosen solution. In other words, the real problem is the increasing expenditures of \$50,000,000 a year. Like any other governmental entity, MSU’s expenditures are made up of 70 to 75 percent labor costs. To control expenditures and make MSU more accessible to Michigan residents, we have to control the increase in wages and benefits and improve efficiencies in scheduling and curriculum. These are management rights which the Board of Trustees must fight to protect. I would stop the increase of out of State students and enforce a realistic four year schedule.
3. The most pressing issue is the rising tuition and the related increases in out of State students. These issues are caused by the increasing expenditures. The result is a negative impact on MSU’s ability to deliver a practical education to the residents of Michigan. As I have done for six years on the OCC Board, I would stop using tuition as the only solution and proposed cost saving changes in scheduling and curriculum. We must make sure that any increase in expenditures is vital and necessary.

Dianne Byrum

Democrat. Partner, Byrum & Fisk Communications; MSU Trustee. B.S. MSU, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Public Affairs Management; Associates Degree, Lansing Community College. Campaign website: www.diannebyrumformsutrustee.com. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/DianneByrumMSU>.

1. My experience serving in the state legislature and my working relationships with elected officials across the state are assets for the university. During my eight years as a Trustee, I have strived to provide sound leadership, approaching issues by asking how our decisions will impact students, faculty, staff, the university and the state. I am also the Policy Committee and Faculty Liaison Committee chairperson for the Board. I have an entrepreneurial spirit and small business background, along with a background in agriculture. I am a team player and I am focused on making MSU better tomorrow than it is today.
2. My top priority is making sure students from all walks of life have access to an affordable, valuable college education. Fewer MSU students graduate with debt compared to the state and national averages, and the average amount of debt is also lower than state and national averages. We should keep making progress through a combination of tuition constraint and new tools to support students and families. These include creating new tools to encourage four-year degree completion; providing support to reduce drop-out rates; increasing university-supported scholarships; and expanding on-campus employment opportunities.
3. Attention must be given to cost containment, which enables us to avoid tuition increases, and couple that with smart investment benefits MSU. For example, we must work together with employee unions to keep healthcare costs low; continue to invest in clean, renewable energy; and bring additional major projects (like the FRIB) to the university. In addition, we must ensure MSU is a safe place for learning, teaching and living. That means investing in mental health services, ensuring strong policies and procedures for domestic and relationship violence, and supporting inclusion of all students.

Diann Woodard

Democrat
Did not respond in time to be included.

Justin Burns

Libertarian
Did not respond in time to be included.

Gregory Scott Stempfle

Libertarian. Medical Technologist. MS Molecular Biology, Wayne State, 2014 BS Clinical Laboratory Sciences, 2008. Website: <https://www.lp.org/candidates/liberty-candidates-16/gregory-stempfle>.

1. I have recently earned a post-graduate degree from a public university in Michigan (MS Molecular Biology, WSU 2014). This makes me with familiar with the challenges facing university students, both while attending school and again as recent graduates. I am running for the Board to give Michigan residents and students an additional and underrepresented voice with regard to university spending and policies. Right now, the Trustees are all Democrats and Republicans. Having members from more than two political views will make it more diverse and inclusive and bring new ideas to the board.
2. I will not vote for any tuition increases. MSU has expanded far beyond its original role as a public university and this has come at the cost of burdening an entire generation of graduates with massive debt. The university simply must scale back its operations and spending.
3. The biggest issue facing the University is the rising cost of tuition and the debt that its students incur.

Angela Grandy

U.S. Taxpayers
Did not respond in time to be included.

Will Tyler White

Green. Principal at Fifth Element Consulting. Owner of White Bros. Music, established in 1976. Certified Economic Developer by the International Economic Development Council. Continuing education student at Michigan State University in political science and urban planning. Website: www.willytlerwhite.org.

1. As a student at Michigan State University I learned firsthand how Teaching Assistants with poor English skills made it difficult to understand complex subjects like statistical analysis. I also learned that TA's had little or no job security and were underpaid for the amount of work they did compared to that of professors. The other important lesson I learned is that some degrees are more valuable than others, but little information is available to quantify that and guide the selection of which major to pursue. As an entrepreneur for forty years, my real world business experience is an asset many academics lack.
2. The growth of administrators in relation to students has increased costs substantially. Upgrading and building new facilities every year is also very expensive. Fewer capital improvement projects plus combining or eliminating administration positions can abate tuition increases. Student debt is also affected by high interest rates from lenders tied to federal programs. An open lending market with flexible finance options can reduce student debt. Performance based repayment schedules should be considered. If employment is not sufficient to pay down debts as agreed, students should be able to renegotiate their terms.
3. Student debt and better graduate outcomes are the most pressing issues. The ability to obtain a marketable degree with a high probability of success in the real world is poorly addressed. In business, when a contract is breached, losses sustained from the failure to execute the contract can be recouped through the courts. The implied contract between students and universities could be formalized. If students spend \$100,000 to earn a degree and are unable to earn a living sufficient to justify that expense, they should be allowed free or reduced tuition for additional education - or get a refund.

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Wayne State University Board of Governors

Eight-year term Vote for up to two

Duties: The Wayne State University Board of Governors has eight members and has general supervision of the university and the control and direction of all expenditures from the institution’s funds. The board shall elect a university president who shall be the principal executive officer.

Questions

1. Describe your qualifications and experience for the University Board and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset?
2. What recommendations would you propose to make university attendance more afford-

- able and reduce the burden of student financial debt?
3. What are the most pressing issues facing this university today and what is your position on those issues?

Michael Busuito

Republican. Plastic Surgeon, Clinical Associate Professor. B.S. University of Michigan 1976. M.D. Wayne State University 1981. Website: www.VoteBusuitoWSU.com/. Facebook: <http://Wwww.VoteBusuitoWSU.com/>.

1. I spent the last 12 years of my post graduate education at Wayne State University. I have been on the faculty at Wayne State University since 1988. I served as the Chief of Plastic Surgery at Wayne State University. I sit on the board of the Wayne State University Physician Group(WSUPG) and I am the past Chair. The budget of WSUPG accounts for almost half of the budget of WSU so I have a clear understanding of the challenges facing WSU. I have six children and a grandchild and my family is a WSU family. I am deeply invested emotionally in WSU. I have the experience and expertise to take WSU to the next level.
2. Offer more online courses to reduce the burden and cost of commuting. Engage more of our local industries to help with the costs of education in return for commitments for future employment. Offer more early counseling regarding return on investment for education on a career by career basis. Take advantage of the rebirth of Detroit to recruit students for success rather than failure.
3. The rising cost of tuition is the most pressing issue we face today. Over 85% of the increase in university tuitions in Michigan between 2000 and 2014 can be attributed to a decline in state funding. This has created a student debt crisis of over 1.3 trillion dollars nationally. This problem must be aggressively addressed at the legislative level. This is a legislative problem and we must seek a political solution or the “American Dream” as we knew it will no longer exist.

Kimberly Shmina

Republican

Did not respond in time to be included.

Yvette McElroy Anderson

Democrat

Did not respond in time to be included.

Mark Gaffney

Democrat. Business agent for Teamsters Local 214. Bachelors Degree in Philosohy, MSU Masters Degree, Labor Relations, MSU.

1. I have taught at WSU for five years. I have advised the Labor Program, and MAELR program for part of that time. Recently I worked with the administration to move the Labor@Wayne Center within the administration. It became apparrent to me that a voice for working families was needed at WSU, certainly with two previous Governors retiring. I have served on numerous Boards of Directors including BCBSM for 12 years and the Federal Reserve Bank, Chicago Region for 12 years. I understand board work, budgets, compromises, advice and consent without micro managing and etc.
2. Support the Federal plan of Candidate Hillary Clinton for a national program to pay for college. Re establish in Michigan the importance of adequately funding higher education in our state. The past few years’ legislatively induced reductions in state funding have been shameful. The college will need to run within its budget and without deficiets in the future, WSU must do its part.
3. The budget must be balanced. The debate with our partner the DMC Hospital system must be successfully concluded. Tuition will need to be affordable and I hope to see the school continue to provide financial assistance based on need at supportive levels. I would hope that the urban mission, service to Detroit and its citizens continues and grows. The graduation rate is getting better as is the total enrollment, but these trends will need to continue. I would certainly hope, and will work towards continuing to have WSU be the opportunity for students from Detroit and from Michigan’s working class families for college.

Bhagwan Dashairya

Libertarian. Managmen Consultant. Ph.D., P.E., MBA.

1. Thiry year of community and professional experience.
2. Make University comparable to University of Michigan. Make university education free.
3. Lack of dorm facilities - Will make more dorms for students. Lack of fundraising - I will enough funds to make education free. Lack of marketing - Make year round publicy & marketing.

Al Seder

Libertarian

Did not respond in time to be included.

Robert Gale

U.S. Taxpayers. Self employed businessman. I attended MSU and MCCU.

1. I am a self employed businessman and a taxpayer not a politician.
2. No response
3. No response

Marc Joseph Sosnowski

U.S. Taxpayers. Representative for an alternate energy supplier. Detroit Catholic Central High School diploma, University of Michigan-Dearborn baccalaureate in environmental studies, Cornerstone University MBA. Website: USTPM.org. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/marc.sosnowski.committee>.

1. With 30 years in the field of bio-ethics, my input is necessary to balance the progressive mission of the University, which is stated “to create knowledge.” Such a mission raises the question whether knowledge is objectively discovered, or is it subjectively declared. As declarations exceedingly prevail over discoveries, the next question arises of who has the authority to proclaim what is truth. With a progressive mindset, the truth evolves, to suit one’s purpose. I say the truth is objective, and you dare not bend the minds of the youth without severe consequences. The community needs me to be a voice of reason.
2. The cost of higher education is part of a controlled system, operating outside the economic laws of supply and demand. First, the “supply” of diplomas, which are the end product, are artificially limited by the number of admissions of new students. Then the “demand” for education is artificially increased by the number and size of classes. To make university attendance more affordable, in order to reduce student financial debt, simply admit all new students who meet qualifying standards, and compensate instructors on a per student basis.
3. A very real symptom of the progressive mission of the University is the on-going inhumane research treatment on dogs. The notable organization, Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, has shown that the lab results from such testing is not applicable to research on human health. Yet the University continues to allow the practice, and accepts the revenue it produces, even though the likelihood is that the animal suffering torture, until it must be put down, is someone’s lost family pet . I say this research must end.

Margaret Guttshall

Green. Writer. Revolutionary socialist. Wayne State University. Masters in Library Science. 2003 Roosevelt University, BA, 1992. Website: [Margaret Guttshall](http://MargaretGuttshall.org). Facebook: <http://www.margaret-guttshall.org>.

1. I was a clerk in the law library in the 1970s. I helped organize the Staff Association to affiliate with the United Auto Workers (UAW). Later, I went to Graduate School where I got a Masters in Library and Information Science and worked as a Reference Assistant in the Law Library.. Wayne State University is a public university. It should serve the people of Michigan, not the owners of private corporations. The WSU Board of Governors needs people who know what Wayne State is and act in accord with it.
2. As a revolutionary socialist, I support the movement for free public education from pre-kindergarten through university. No tuition. I also support the movement in favor of cancelling the student debt. We spend too much of our federal budget on war. I advocate greatly reducing this budget and using the money for education. We can reduce the salaries of some of the highest paid university officials to be more in line with public employee wages. Lobby our federal elected officials to support the movement for cancelling student debt and free public university education.
3. Besides tuition, another pressing issue is institutional white supremacy and racism, including attracting and keeping students of color and low-income students. We need to identify students who are not succeeding before there are problems and work with them to stay and grow. I will work to develop and obtain funds to increase enrollment from Detroit, other African-American communities and others affected by institutional white supremacy and racism. I will work to develop programs to keep students at Wayne State once they are there.

Fran Shor

Green. Retired, Emeritus Professor, History, Wayne State University. Ph.D. University of Minnesota, M.A. University of Minnesota, B.A. University of Pittsburgh. Website: www.franshor.org. Facebook: <http://Committee to Elect Fran Shor>.

1. Having taught at Wayne State for forty years, I am intimately familiar with the university at all levels. I retired two years ago, in part, because the tuition was forcing most of my students into large loan debt. I will be a full-time advocate for reducing tuition and debt and for representing the interests of students, faculty, staff, and the citizens of Michigan, especially working families and working adults.
2. While Wayne State has faced enormous decreases in state appropriations, administrative positions and salaries have risen rapidly. For example, there are eleven Associate Deans at the Medical School making a total of 3 million dollars. Such redundancies and costs can be cut to provide more financial aid to the neediest students, helping in the process to reduce potential debt. Also, additional money from cutting building costs can be utilized to lift financial holds on graduating seniors, allowing them to finish their degrees.
3. Tuition costs must be reduced to make Wayne State more affordable and accessible to working class students. Special attention must be given to recruiting and retaining disadvantaged students. Faculty, staff, and students should be given more input into financial decisions in departments and programs through participatory budgeting. A more sustainable campus can be managed through energy efficiency and local sourcing, especially with the greater involvement of Detroit’s urban farms in campus food services

Wendy Goossen

Natural Law

Did not respond in time to be included.

Kalamazoo County Officials

Kalamazoo County Prosecuting Attorney

Four-year term Vote for one

Description: The office is created by the Michigan Constitution and is the Chief Law Enforcement Official of the county. The Prosecutor and staff are responsible for the prosecution of all adult and juvenile violations of state criminal law within Kalamazoo County. They represent the community in the local District, Circuit, Family, Probate and State appellate courts.

Questions

1. List your three top priorities for the office you seek. How will you accomplish the most important one of these?
2. If elected, what would you do to foster an accessible, responsive process for citizen involvement and to improve citizen understanding of the role and structure of county government?
3. A recent study by the Innocence Project concluded that, “it is abundantly clear that, across the country, our systems of prosecutorial oversight are either failing or nonexistent.” What steps will you take to ensure that prosecutorial error and misconduct do not occur in your office?

Donald H. Smith

Republican. Age 45. Partner at Willis Law. Specializing in Criminal Defense, Juvenile Law and Litigation. Graduated from Kalamazoo Christian High School. Bachelor of Arts in Psychology/ Sociology from Hope College. Juris Doctor - Magna Cum Laude from Michigan State University School of Law. 6 years as a Child Protective Services Investigator and 6 years as a CPS Supervisor in Kalamazoo. 6 years as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Kalamazoo. Over 4 years practicing law in felony and misdemeanor criminal defense, juvenile law, child protective proceedings, drivers license restoration throughout southwest Michigan. Appointed Special Prosecutor in several child abuse/neglect matters. Website: <http://donsmithforkalamazoopros-ecutor.com>. Email: dsmith@willislawyers.com. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Donald-Smith-1018924034895906/>. Phone: (269) 492-1040.

1. The Prosecutor’s office must use every tool in its arsenal to (1) hold offenders responsible for their behavior, make sure they learn a lesson and deter future crime. One of the ways this is accomplished is by ensuring that our jail is never half full, as it has been in recent years. (2) I am particularly concerned with our seniors and the financial crimes that they suffer from. Every effort will be made not only to prosecute those who exploit our seniors, but also to get any things stolen from them actually returned or repaid. (3) The Prosecutor must also run a fiscally responsible office, that ensures that each tax dollar is used wisely.
2. Having worked in the Kalamazoo Prosecutor’s Office and having once spent all my time in the courthouse, I have witnessed how easy it is for some to become insulated and out of touch with the concerns of the community. As Prosecuting Attorney, not only will I have an open door with regard to citizens and any questions or issues they might have, but I will also be reaching out to community groups to ensure that I and my staff are not insulated or out of touch and that I am as aware as I can be of the concerns of the various segments of our community. This willingness to listen will be evident in how I and my staff conduct our work each day.
3. A Prosecutor’s job is to ensure that justice is done. Justice is done when the constitution is complied with. Stories abound of how prosecutors all over decide that justice can only be accomplished when someone is convicted. When that happens, a prosecutor can become part of the problem by trying to excuse police misconduct when it occurs, or in violating rules of court, of evidence and of ethics in pursuing the conviction of someone that person “just knows” is guilty. As Prosecutor, I will ensure my staff knows that my office plays by the rules in our fight against crime. Ability, ethics and diversity will be sought after in new hires.

Jeffrey S. Getting

Democrat. Age 52. Kalamazoo County Prosecuting Attorney. Indiana University School of Law - Bloomington, 1989; Western Michigan University, 1986. Kalamazoo County Prosecu- tor, 2013-present; Getting Law Offices, 1998-2012; Kalamazoo County Assistant Prosecutor, 1990-1998; Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan (PAAM), Board of Directors; PAAM Legislative Committee; PAAM Best Practices Initiative; Prevention Works, Board of Directors; Kalamazoo County Elder Abuse Prevention Coalition Member; KPEP, Board of Directors. Web- site: <http://www.GettingForProsecutor.com>. Email: gettingforprosecutor@gmail.com. Facebook: <http://Facebook.com/CitizensForJeffreyGetting>. Phone: (269) 779-2588.

1. My top three priorities are to fight crime tough, fight crime smart and fight crime as an innovator. We are fighting crime tough with High Impact Prosecutions that identify and prosecute Kalamazoo County’s most dangerous criminals, to keep our neighborhoods safe. We are fighting crime smart by using problem-solving courts for nonviolent offenders with drug and mental health issues, such as Drug Court, Mental Health Court and Family Dependency Treatment Court. We are also fighting crime as an innovator with our newly established Veterans Court, which is keeping Kalamazoo County on the cutting edge of criminal justice reform.
2. It’s important to be open and transparent, and we are transparent in the Prosecutor’s Office. I currently meet with many community groups regularly and work to be transparent with them and the public. I maintain connections to the community via community events, civic groups and neighborhood associations. I participate on the Boards of the Elder Abuse Prevention Task Force, Prevention Works, the Anti-Violence Task Force and KPEP, as well as partner with the YWCA to combat sexual assault. Our Assistant Prosecutors participate in the WMU Innocence Project, School-Justice Partnership and the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Council as well.
3. The Kalamazoo County Prosecutor’s Office maintains a high charging standard for criminal cases. We also train our Assistant Prosecutors. All Assistant Prosecutors are encouraged to attend Continuing Legal Education (CLE) workshops on a regular basis, and our office budget supports these efforts. We encourage problem-solving prosecution and a willingness to listen to new information that changes our view of a case, empowering Assistant Prosecutors to dismiss cases when facts no longer support the charged offense. Finally, as part of a post-conviction review process, we have an Assistant Prosecutor who volunteers with the WMU Innocence Project.

Kalamazoo County Sheriff

Four-year term Vote for one

Description: The Sheriff is responsible for the operation of the County Jail, accepting and processing reports of crime occurring in the County, providing court security, marine law enforcement, service of court orders and process, and numerous other statutorily mandated functions.

Questions

1. List your three top priorities for the office you seek. How will you accomplish the most important one of these?
2. If elected, what would you do to foster an accessible, responsive process for citizen involve- ment and to improve citizen understanding of the role and structure of county government?
3. What is the responsibility of the justice system to ensure that prisoners are afforded oppor- tunities for appropriate communication with their friends and family? What measures are and should be taken?

Jeff Heppler

Republican. Age 63. Chief of Police Village Augusta & City of Galesburg, Fire Fighter, Business Owner, County Vice Chair. College Assoc. Degree Law Enforcement, & Business. Emergence management. Over 41 years of law enforcement of with 38 years as Chief of Police, Fire Fighter for 38 years, County Commissioner for 14 years, 30+ years as a business owner. Village Presi- dent for 10 years. Village Manager for the Augusta. Website: <http://hepplerforsheriff.com>. Email: heppler4sheriff@gmail.com. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/hepplerforsheriff>. Phone: (269) 629-5124.

1. (a) Being Fiscally responsible to the citizens and business of Kalamazoo County to provide clean audits, and less law suits. (b) Increase Deputies on the streets to provide better service to our citizens, businesses, and visitors to our county. (c) Communication and cooperation between ALL law enforcement agencies in the county to provide the best service possible. Bring a team of qualified individuals together to work out all of the issues with the audit mak- ing sure that we are in compliance with labor laws and audit requirements.
2. I want to have open communication with all citizens, business owners, & guest of Kalamazoo County where they feel that they can contact me either in person, email or by phone to com- municate any problems or concerns that they may have. Hosting open house where citizens can come and find out is going on at Sheriff’s Dept. Have meetings at different locations all over the county where folks can come and talk with Sheriff.
3. Currently there is a vitiation center for families and friends to come and visit with inmates. A review of polices making sure that this is serving the needs of both parties, and if not make adjustment so that the needs are meet.

Richard C. Fuller

Democrat. Age 52. Sheriff of Kalamazoo County. I hold a Bachelors of Science in Organizational Management from Spring Arbor University, an Associates in Law Enforcement from Kellogg CC and proud alumni of Marshall High School. Sheriff of 7 years, veteran of 30 years in law enforce- ment, graduate of National Sheriff’s Institute and MCOLES certified police officer. I have served many positions: Dispatcher, Deputy, Sergeant and Detective. Also creator/leader of the County Meth Team, Project Lifesaver and Field Training Program. Trained by U.S. Dept. of Justice in Jail Administration. Website: <http://RichardFuller.com>. Email: kzoosheriff@gmail.com. Facebook: <http://SheriffRichardFuller>. Phone: (269) 377-6007.

1. My top three priorities for the Kalamazoo County Sheriff’s Office are part of a plan I have developed over the course of my many years of service. As Sheriff, I have guided all programs towards outcomes in line with these priorities, which are: 1) Increase services provided to anyone in Kalamazoo County, 2) Reduce the rate of repeat offenders, and 3) Develop partner- ships designed to help everyone be part of the solutions needed to achieve the first two. My staff and I continually work to meet these priorities and are committed to prepare future initia- tives to do the same.
2. My record as sheriff reflects my commitment to each of these ideas. In 2011, I invited the com- munity to a series of meetings to gather input on the planning and design of the jail renovation and expansion. Roundtable discussions are held with citizen groups on an ongoing basis, and over the last three years, I have held more than 20 “coffee with the sheriff” events throughout Kalamazoo County and in the jail. As well, the sheriff’s website has been updated to help people contact my office with thoughts, concerns, and ideas.
3. It is the responsibility of the justice system to give incarcerated individuals multiple ways to communicate with friends and families. I have made communication easier and more acces- sible for inmates than ever before. We have visits through our visiting center on Healy Street, email, letters, Skype-style visits, and telephone calls. Ongoing communication with family and friends accomplishes multiple goals. It helps keep the inmate connected to the people that mean the most to them—the ones who will help them cope with their incarceration, and reha- bilitate/re-enter the community. It also allows the public see what goes on behind the scenes.

There’s More on Your Ballot!

In addition to the races and proposals covered in this Guide, others may be on your ballot, such as:

- City, Township and Village Officials and/or Trustees
- School, Community College and Library Boards
- City or Townships Proposals and Millages

Prepare to vote by reviewing a sample of your ballot at the Michigan Secretary of State website.

- Go to: www.michigan.gov/vote
- Enter your name, birth month and year, and zip code
- Click on View My Sample Ballot

Help prevent delays on election day by studying the candidates and issues and by using your sample ballot to record your choices before going to the polls.

Kalamazoo County Officials, continued

Kalamazoo County Clerk & Register of Deeds

Four-year term Vote for one

Description: The duties of the County Clerk include Clerk of the Circuit Court, Board of Commissioners, County Board of Canvassers, Jury Board and Gun Board; Registrar of all Vital Records; and Chief Election Officer for the County. The duties of the Register of Deeds include official recording of all legal documents affecting real property.

Questions

1. List your three top priorities for the office you seek. How will you accomplish the most important one of these?
2. If elected, what would you do to foster an accessible, responsive process for citizen involvement and to improve citizen understanding of the role and structure of county government?
3. What strategies would you use to improve the effectiveness of the office in which you hope to serve?

Timothy A. Snow

Republican. Age 57. Kalamazoo County Clerk & Register of Deeds. BS in Ed - Central Michigan University; Comstock High School; Master Certified County Officer; Certified Municipal Clerk. Kalamazoo County Clerk & Register of Deeds since 1997; Comstock Township Clerk 1984-1996; active member of Michigan Association of County Clerks (President in 2010; County Clerk of the Year in 2011; Legislative Committee; Chair of several committees); active member of Michigan Association of Registers of Deeds (Legislative Committee). Email: timothysnow@att.net. Phone: (269) 276-9481.

1. (a) Selection and implementation of a new voting system for Kalamazoo County. (b) Continue technological advances in the Clerk & Register of Deeds Department. (c) Continue placing public information online for easy access by the public. The new voting system will be a very careful decision made by consulting with all the city and township clerks and reviewing all the information regarding the vendors approved by the State of Michigan. A program of implementation will be planned so voters feel comfortable at the polls. Voters should feel secure knowing that the new system will be a upgrade of the current optical scan method.
2. By providing more information and documents online, the public will be able to learn more about their government. Currently the County Clerk & Register of Deeds provides land record indexes back to 1985 online and land documents to 1994. More documents will be made available online at the statutory fee of \$1 per page with no convenience fees. The County Clerk division provides indexes for many of its documents online. In addition, campaign finance information is now available online for all Kalamazoo County candidates at no charge. It is imperative that the public has access to documents to encourage involvement in government.
3. The County Clerk & Register of Deeds Office serves as a public information center for the County. We continue to prepare for the future by scanning in many documents for both the staff and the public to use in order to increase our efficiencies. The increased access to technology assists everyone in obtaining information about their government. Plans are being made to dramatically increase land documents available online. Soon everyone will be able to search 30 years of documents from home. Because of all of this work in both the Clerk and Register Divisions, requests for information can be filled very promptly.

John Patrick Taylor

Democrat. Age 37. County Commissioner and Chair of the Kalamazoo County Board of Commission. Edwardsburg High School (1996). Andrews University Math and Science Center (1992-1996). Northern Michigan University (1997-1998). Western Michigan University (1998-2002). I have served nearly 14 years as a County Commissioner, of which the past two years I have served as Chair of the County Board. With the trust of both my Democratic and Republican colleagues, I have unanimously been elected for this position twice. Website: <http://www.friendsof-johntaylor.com/>. Email: John@friendsofjohnntaylor.com. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JohnTaylorForKalamazoo/>. Phone: (734) 755-5548.

1. My top three priorities include (1) providing equitable access to voting, (2) creating uniformity in the training and reporting process during elections, and (3) improving the efficiency for requesting and obtaining documents. Democracy should be transparent. Everyone who participates in our democratic process should be treated as equal, regardless of race or socio-economic status. The lines while waiting to vote should not be longer just because of where you live. If elected, I will work closely with the local clerks and incentivize investments in more voting machines where long lines are the norm.
2. Each year, countless voters are needlessly turned away from the polls. As Clerk, I will train election workers to inform voters of all their options, including voting provisionally when they cannot show proper identification at that time. In addition, local clerks will be given a uniform training and reporting process. This consistency will alleviate wait times and make voting easier and more transparent. I will also waive the fee in obtaining a birth certificate for the process of acquiring a legal ID in order to vote. This fee acts as a roundabout poll tax that can discourage citizens from participating in the democratic process.
3. If elected, improving the efficiency and decreasing wait times for requesting and obtaining documents will be prioritized. The office website will stay up-to-date in order for people to have access to important information regarding the current rules and regulations. Under my direction, staff and resources will be utilized to implement 21st century technological advances, which will decrease wait times for obtaining vital public records.

Kalamazoo County Treasurer

Four-year term Vote for one

Description: The Treasurer is the custodian of County monies, collector of all county revenue and the agent for the delinquent tax revolving funds.

Questions

1. List your three top priorities for the office you seek. How will you accomplish the most important one of these?
2. If elected, what would you do to foster an accessible, responsive process for citizen involvement and to improve citizen understanding of the role and structure of county government?
3. What strategies would you use to improve the effectiveness of the office in which you hope to serve?

Mary Balkema

Republican. Age 49. Kalamazoo County Treasurer 2007 – 2016. WMU, B.S. Major: Accounting (1989). Kalamazoo City Commissioner 2001-2007. Old Kent/Fifth Third Securities 2000 – 2003. First of America Securities 1985 – 1999. Kalamazoo County Land Bank Authority Chair. LISC Local Advisory Committee Board Chair, KNHS board member, County Plat Board, County Apportionment Commission, Election Commission, OPEB Board, Legislative Co-Chair for the Michigan Association of County Treasurers. Website: <http://marybalkema.com>. Email: mary-balkema@sbcglobal.net. Facebook: <http://Re-elect Mary Balkema for County Treasurer>. Phone: (269) 720-3246.

1. (a) Maintain a strong bond rating, an audit with no material comments and strong investment portfolio. (b) Decrease the number of tax foreclosures. (c) Continue the investment in the built environment thru blight elimination and tax base growth. I will accomplish that by continuing the good work I have started over the past 2 terms in office. The County Treasurer in partnership with the Land Bank was just awarded a \$1.2 million dollar blight grant. We are knocking on door to help residents avoid tax foreclosure. The 40 bank reconciliations are current and we have no audit comments. We are timely, transparent and trustworthy.
2. As an elected official, I have open office hours daily, I respond to over 50 phone calls and 200 plus e-mails daily. My cell phone is provided to constituents. I take pride in serving and have helped hundreds of hardworking taxpayers avoid foreclosure. I speak to school groups, college groups, and civic groups about local government. I have recruited many individuals to sit on county and city advisory boards. I believe that citizen involvement is crucial for good governance. During my 15 years as a public servant, I have learned a great deal from listening to the constituents. I consider that one of the great benefits of public service.
3. Continuing the legacy of great customer service, connecting taxpayers to services, using technology to improve processes and being a responsible steward of the resources entrusted to me. Effectively using media and advertising to inform and educate the public on the good work the county continues to do.

Sunny Saura Sahu

Democrat. Age 42. Deputy City Attorney, Battle Creek. Univ. of Michigan Law School, JD 1999; Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, BA with high honors, 1996; Western Michigan Univ., graduate studies; Portage Northern H.S., 1991; Kal. Area Math & Sci. Ctr., 1991. Deputy City Attorney of Battle Creek; Miller Canfield, Partner; Tarlow & Berk, Associate; Federal Judicial Law Clerk to the Hon Julian Abele Cook, Jr. Experience includes leading forensic accounting teams to recover government contracting funds and serving as outside counsel in successful settlement discussions involving complex corruption allegations over 100s of Millions of dollars in government. Website: <http://www.electsunny.com>. Email: sunny@electsunny.com. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/electsunnysahu/>. Phone: (269) 808-3140.

1. My top priorities support economic growth for everyone. First, economic growth requires consistent, evenhanded policies. The Office must apply the same rules to everyone. Second, those policies must be fair. In each of the Treasurer’s roles, the response must fit the taxpayer’s responsibility. Third, economic development is sustainable when it brings prosperity to all. This county includes bountiful farmland and underused urban infrastructure. We will adopt better policies to use the Office’s discretion to work with homeowners before foreclosure, to avoid unfair development practices, and to promote open, attractive, competitive markets.
2. The Treasurer’s Office should be transparent and service-driven, and it isn’t. It is difficult if not impossible to get clear, consistent statements of the Office’s policies with respect to the potential avoidance of tax foreclosure, the foreclosure process, the use of the Land Bank’s authority, and similar matters. Even ordinary requests for information are sometimes handled in unusual, obstructionist ways. When elected, I will make priorities of clarity, service, and outreach, so citizens can expect straightforward explanations of how the Office works, what resources it offers, and how it will treat everyone.
3. The Treasurer’s Office is not a family business, and it should not be an insider’s game. It plays a key role in homeownership, and it is the chief investment office in the county. It must do a better job of being clear, evenhanded, and fair, while fostering open, competitive markets in which more businesses and organizations can help Kalamazoo County to grow. When elected, we will engage a broader set of citizens, business and community leaders, and state and national allies to support homeownership and to support economic development policies that are better suited to attracting meaningful investment and partnership in our community.

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!

Kalamazoo County Officials, continued

Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner

Four-year term Vote for one

Description: The Drain Commissioner is responsible for enforcing the Michigan Drain Code which includes the construction and maintenance of drains, determining drainage districts and assessing necessary costs, authority over drainage in most new construction sites, and member of lake boards established for the purpose of maintaining lake levels, and inspecting dams.

Questions

- 1. List your three top priorities for the office you seek. How will you accomplish the most important one of these?
- 2. If elected, what would you do to foster an accessible, responsive process for citizen involvement and to improve citizen understanding of the role and structure of county government?
- 3. What strategies would you use to improve the effectiveness of the office in which you hope to serve?

Patricia A. S. Crowley

Democrat. Age 62. Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner. San Francisco State Univ, BS Ecology and Systematics 1975; Univ of Wisconsin, Madison, MS Water Resources Mgt 1981; Michigan State, PHD Ag and Systems Mgt, Soil Infiltration Researcher. Drain Commissioner Kal Co 2009-present. Peace Corp Western Samoa 1976-1978. Owned American Farm Environment, 2000-2008. Kal River project hydrologist 1998-2000 MI Dept of Environ Qual Analyst 1991-1997. Member Kal Co Parks Comm, Kal Co Parks Foundation, Kal River Watershed Council, Kal Co Disaster Comm, Environ Health Advisory Comm, Board Public Works, Kal Religious Soc of Friends, Tillers Intl.

- 1. My three priorities are: 1) protecting property, 2) decreasing flooding and water pollution, and 3), promoting a safe and healthy community to support the economy and environment of Kalamazoo County. We welcome public input to discover specific problems. We follow the Drain Code and our federal stormwater guidelines to come up with solutions. And we are constantly learning new techniques from other professionals to improve our service. Mother Nature is the real boss of our world and we do our best to adjust to her widely varying demands. It is a dynamic environment and our “accomplishments” are primarily in the quality of our service.

- 2. The Drain Office is a welcoming place for visitors. We hold drainage district meetings as needed and do lots of public outreach at the county fair and many other community events and summer camps. We are in touch with the economic capacity of our public and respond to problems with cost-effective solutions. We facilitate all calls to the appropriate authorities when people call with their concerns and we host an informative website. We publish annual reports about our activities and share our successes in gaining grants and completing difficult projects with the media. We are transparent in our goals to the Board of Commission.
- 3. A few years ago, with funding support from Tim Snow, the County Clerk, we scanned our valuable historic documents so that they are now easy for all to reference. We still struggle to organize some of our office communications because there are so few of us and such a high demand on our time. We are querying other departments for ideas on how better to manage our document throughput. I think a more systematic communication system will help us in our reporting requirements and others who will follow us.

Kalamazoo County Surveyor

Four-year term Vote for one

Description: The County Surveyor is the County Representative for the State Survey and Remonumentation Program, whose primary objective is to locate, monument, and maintain the County’s roughly 3,300 section corners. The Surveyor must be licensed as a Professional Surveyor by the Michigan State Board of Professional Surveyors.

Questions

- 1. List your three top priorities for the office you seek. How will you accomplish the most important one of these?
- 2. If elected, what would you do to foster an accessible, responsive process for citizen involvement and to improve citizen understanding of the role and structure of county government?
- 3. What strategies would you use to improve the effectiveness of the office in which you hope to serve?

Gary D. Hahn

Republican
Did not respond in time to be included.

Kalamazoo County Commission

Two-year term Vote for one

Description: The Board of Commissioners is the legislative policy-making branch of Kalamazoo County Government. The Board is responsible to the citizens for development and administration of policies and the annual budget. The Board has 11 members who are elected from districts according to population.

Questions

- 1. List your three top priorities for the office you seek. How will you accomplish the most important one of these?
- 2. What are the most important qualifications for the next County administrator? How do you envision the Commission and administrator working together?
- 3. What steps can the Commission take to strengthen the diversity and improve the stability of the County’s economic base, while supporting appropriate land use?

DISTRICT 1

Kalamazoo City precincts 1, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 27
Kalamazoo Township precincts 10, 11

Jessica Salvano

Republican
Did not respond in time to be included.

Stephanie Moore

Democrat. Age 44. Program Coordinator, Douglass Community Association Program Director, Mothers of Hope. Graduated Kalamazoo Public Schools, 1990 Associate Degree, KVCC. Elected 4 terms to Kalamazoo City Commission 2007-2015. Email: stephny4@icloud.com. Facebook: http://CommissionerStephanieMoore. Phone: (269) 547-9002.

- 1. My Top Three Priorities surround the issues of public health, in particular infant mortality, community health, and poverty. Another priority of mines surround creating a more vibrant District 1 through increasing opportunities for residents to access education, employment, and entrepreneurial opportunities. The third priority falls under the umbrella of women’s empowerment and reproductive justice issues including safe communities, domestic abuse, and police/community partnerships.
- 2. The County’s present priority is the hiring of a permanent County Administrator as well as continuing to address the ongoing internal transitions of individuals in leadership positions throughout the County including the next Public Health Officer. I’m also interested in seeing how the County can consider its role with the Prosecuting Attorney’s office and the other courts in order to address how the judicial process can be one of community restoration, individual accountability & empowerment, and community engagement in order to interrupt the ongoing criminalization of addictions and undiagnosed mental illnesses due to childhood trauma.
- 3. The fundamentals of economic development are job creation, private investment, tax base expansion, wealth creation, higher quality of life, and higher standard of living. As County Commissioner, I’ve worked across party lines to advocate for County initiatives that are equitably applied as it relates to higher quality of life and higher standard of living for all of our county citizenry. For my next term, I’d like to focus on policies and systems as it relates to job creation and wealth creation for all of our citizens but especially those who are most underserved and who do not see a clear way out of abject poverty.

DISTRICT 2

Kalamazoo City precincts 3, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24
Kalamazoo Township precinct 1

T. Casey Fawley

Republican
Did not respond in time to be included.

Kevin B. Wordelman

Democrat. Age 35. Director of People & Culture at the Kalamazoo Nature Center. B.A. Political Science/Communication 2003, Master’s Degree in Public Administration 2012; both from Western Michigan University. Human Resources Director, 2015-Present. Union Administrator, 2011-2015. Paralegal, 2007-2011. House Painter 2006-2007. Deconstruction Crew Leader, 2005. Website: http://kevinforkzoo.com. Email: kevin@kevinforkzoo.com. Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/kevinwordelmanforkalamazoo. Phone: (269) 290-8656.

- 1. (a) My top priority is to stabilize county leadership and grow our capacity for innovation, collaboration and cooperation by hiring a well-qualified county administrator and working with other stakeholders to develop a strategic vision for Kalamazoo County into the future. (b) In the next year I hope to break ground on a health and human services campus on Alcott Street in the Edison neighborhood that includes county, state and private sector health and human service organizations. (c) Develop a collaborative vision for county facilities that maximizes efficiency and promotes growth and vitality in Kalamazoo’s core neighborhoods.
- 2. The Kalamazoo County administrator needs to be a person of vision and integrity who can develop relationships with elected officials, business and community leaders and who will articulate a vision for county government that will better reflect the diversity in our community and better serve our residents. Once the right candidate is in place, we county commissioners should promote and support this vision with strategic investments and thoughtful advocacy on behalf of our constituents.
- 3. The most important thing we can do to improve our local economy is to make important decisions collaboratively and cooperatively with other units of government, community stakeholders and business leaders. We can’t make big decisions with blinders on. Investing strategically to promote job growth and economic vitality, whether we are building roads, trails or public buildings, can create a community marketplace where people, neighborhoods and business can grow and thrive together. We should move away from the old “race to the bottom” world of tax abatement and disinvestment and toward a more sustainable vision of growth from the bottom up.

DISTRICT 3

Kalamazoo City precincts 2, 4, 12, 19, 22, 25, 26

Charley Coss

Republican. Age 57. Business Owner | Parent | Citizen Volunteer | Civic Volunteer. B.F.A. WMU 2003; M.P.A. WMU 2009. Thirty years managing Business Meeting & Information Tech. - Managing multi-million dollar budgets and personnel. Website: http://votecoss.com. Email: charley@votecoss.com. Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/votecoss. Phone: (269) 290-1237.

- 1. (a) Safe - Fix the 911 System (create a unified 911 system county wide). (b) Trusted - Stop Bad Contracting and Hiring practices in the County government. (c) Better = - Make Kalamazoo a State of the Art County, and bring new and better jobs. We need to upgrade our infrastructure and integrate state of the art technology throughout the county, including an integrated 911

Kalamazoo County Commisison, continued

- services system to support law enforcement and improve responsiveness for our citizens.
- The next County Administrator needs to be excellent at fiscal management, negotiation and a very good communicator. As a County Commissioner I would benefit from a strong administrator who can argue for pragmatic changes and be able to implement difficult policies as needed. We need a Strong Administrator.
 - The county has an incredible wealth of diversity in all strata. Our goal should be to provide an advanced infrastructure, which will put Kalamazoo on the top of the list to locate new upstart businesses. We have world class businesses and universities, and great natural resources. Let's leverage our assets to make Kalamazoo a great location for jobs, a great location for living. Let's make Kalamazoo even better.

Tracy Hall

Democrat. Age 44. Instructor, KVCC, Political Science & Sociology. Instructor, WMU, Gender & Women's Studies. Master of Arts, Political Science, WMU. Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, WMU. I have been teaching political science courses for 13 years and have a strong intellectual understanding of how local governments work. I am a planning commissioner on the City of Kalamazoo's Planning Commission. I also serve on a variety of other boards and committees. As a teacher and an activist I have a proven track record of communicating well with individuals from all walks of life. Website: <http://hallforkzoo.com/>. Email: tracy.hall19@gmail.com. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/tracyhall4kzoo/>. Phone: (269) 720-7747.

- Hire a County Administrator. Over 260,000 residents depend on the county to effectively & efficiently administer its core services. To accomplish this I will work with other Commissioners to direct and ensure this process is thorough, complete, and transparent. An extensive national & local search must be done in order to assure the best and most qualified candidate is found for this important position. Expand intergovernmental collaboration & cooperation to enhance services. Enhance the quality of life for all residents of Kalamazoo by working with various county departments and community organizations to create more vibrant communities.
- Hiring a County administrator will be the most important decision to be made. In addition to professional experience and a strong educational background, this person should be ethical and have a strong commitment to transparency, as well as strong community relations experience and a commitment to inclusion and diversity. I envision the Commission and Administrator working together as a team, with the administrator acting as a liaison between the various departments and the commission. The Commission and Administrator will also work together to further cooperation and coordination with other local units of government in the County.
- Through intergovernmental coordination, the Commission can foster & promote smart growth principles with local units of government. I would like to see planning & development tied to smart growth principles. Planning & development policies impact our communities greatly. These policies can negatively impact individuals in lower socioeconomic classes. We often frame our discussions on poverty around the individual and little discussion is placed on the role of planning & development in our communities. Advancing regional equity & opportunity through smart growth principles will strengthen the diversity and improve the County's economic base.

DISTRICT 4

Kalamazoo City precincts 5, 6, 10
Kalamazoo Township precincts 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12
City of Parchment

Michael A. Seals

Democrat. Age 55. Retired from Consumers Energy/ Line Person/ Kalamazoo County/ Commissioner District 4. US Navy and Davenport University AS Major Business Management, Minors in Communications and Marketing. I have Served on Many Non-Profit Boards from 1990 thru Current. County Commissioner for the past 6 years.

- The First Priority is get thru the process of Hiring a new Administrator. We first have to establish which hiring company we will use. then we have define what we are looking for in a Administrator.
- As I stated during the last selection process, I believe the person should be a neutral person with little or no ties to any political parties. the person should at least be able to put aside there politics, It is important that the entire board be able to trust this person.
- No response

DISTRICT 5

Alamo Township
Kalamazoo Township precincts 3, 6, 9
Oshtemo Township precincts 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 10

Chad Dillon

Republican
Did not respond in time to be included.

Julie M. Rogers

Democrat. Age 40. Physical Therapist at Borgess Health and current Kalamazoo County Commissioner, 5th District. Master's in Physical Therapy from Marquette University. Graduate of Mattawan High and Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center. Attended many Michigan Assoc. of Counties and National County conferences. National Assoc. of Counties Health Policy Committee member. Liaison: Kal County Brownfield Authority, County Economic Development Corp, Workforce Development Board, County Appointments Committee. Borgess Diversity Council, Chapel Hill United Methodist Church Faith in Action Team. Past: Girls on the Run Coach, West Michigan Cancer Center board member. I hold quarterly coffees for community input. Website: <http://www.juliemrogers.com>. Email: julie@juliemrogers.com. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/vote4rogers/>. Phone: (269) 349-3352.

- (a) JOBS continue to be my top priority. My service on Kalamazoo County Brownfield Authority and Workforce Development Board demonstrates my commitment to retain and attract employers. 1,000 jobs have been created while I've served on KCBRA. (b) BUILDING a new home for our County Health and Community Services with local input. Preserving in-home assessments for senior independent living, improving Veterans access to services, and reducing infant mortality is critical. Previously, I introduced a new countywide prescription drug discount card available to Kalamazoo County residents. (c) HIRING a highly qualified County administrator-see next question
- The next administrator should value and respect ALL people regardless of differences. She/he must be committed to building morale while bringing visionary ideas to Kalamazoo. The

administrator should be experienced in large-scale budget development, strategic planning, consensus building, and have strong public relations skills. Though the administrator is responsible for the County's day-to-day operations and management, he or she should have regular dialogue with Commissioners for collaboration and input on important decisions.

- As a member of the County Brownfield Authority, I've been able to get contaminated properties cleaned up, ready for new businesses to create jobs and put properties back on the tax rolls. We just received a \$400,000 EPA clean up grant for our work! Employers look at community assets like walkability when choosing a region. I recently led the County in a bipartisan effort to adopt a Complete Streets resolution. It encourages responsible development of roads, trail connectors, wider shoulders, and signage to improve safety for all users. Our County Planning Board is developing a County Master Plan to support and prioritize appropriate land use

DISTRICT 6

Townships of Cooper, Richland, Ross

Ron Kendall

Republican. Age 31. Legislative Director. BA American Public Policy from Western Michigan University. 4 years working in the Michigan House of Representatives. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ronkendallforcountycommission/>. Phone: (269) 760-0322.

- (a) Continue to work on a budget that works for the people. County services are typically the most direct form of government that people see in there day to day lives and it's our responsibility as commissioners to adequately fund the various services provided. (b) Keeping taxes low and spending tax dollars wisely. Most people don't want to see their taxes increased and it's our job to make sure that the mone you coming in provides the services people expect. Working diligently on a budget that provides the services needed without raising taxes is fundamental to my campaign and to my constituents. (c) Public Safety and mental health funding.
- The most important qualification for our next County administrator is a quality understanding of budgets and how our county operates. Kalamazoo county has an eclectic population and being able to make decisions with consideration of the cities and rural communities is paramount.
- We need to do as much as we can to encourage commerce and build relationships with the experts in the field to create an atmosphere that creates jobs and balances the communities needs. We have a vibrant outdoor recreation community taking advantage of of our rivers and trails and many businesses have learned to partner with these consumers. There is also several quality institutions of higher learning that can have a great impact on a workforce ready to be gainfully employed. Working with them and business leaders to further create a local econmy that isn't reliant on only one or two industries.

Mike Steffes

Libertarian. Age 70. Hypnotherapist for New Hope Hypnosis LLC. Owner of New Hope Hypnosis LLC. BBA from Western Michigan University in Management. I have held many elected offices in service clubs, Jaycees, Rotary etc. over the years. I have also served as a Sargent in the US Army overseas. Website: <http://www.commissioner6.com>. Email: steffesmike@sbcglobal.net. Phone: (269) 352-4733.

- My top three priorities are: 1. Reduce spending in the county by consolidating elections. This year alone we have three elections not counting the primaries both local and presidential. Most spring elections are designed to pass tax increases without most of the voters being aware that the election is even happening. 2. Increase public awareness of not only elections but of other important decisions being made by the board. Currently I have never heard from my commissioner concerning any of the important considerations that the board is making. 3. Save taxpayer dollars by revisiting many of the current programs funded by the board of com
- A county administrator should have several qualities demonstrated over time before applying for the position. First and foremost the person should be organized and efficient. The administrator must be willing to keep foremost in their thinking the will and priorities of the commission. The administrator must be an excellent communicator, both orally and in writing and in social media.
- Kalamazoo county is one of the more diverse and prosperous counties in the State of Michigan. Maintaining this is a top priority of the next board of commissioners. All requests for new business to have fees or taxes waved must be given careful consideration and passed expeditiously when appropriate. Current businesses that are struggling should be offered assistance and expertise from the board to maintain their job base and viability. All requests both new and current must be reviewed in light of EPA rules and county priorities for land use. The board must also be flexible enough to consider all requests.

DISTRICT 7

Townships of Charleston, Climax, Comstock, Wakeshma
City of Galesburg

Roger E. Tuinier

Republican. Age 65. President of Tuinier Bros Greenhouses Inc. and Manager of day to day operations. High School graduate. Attended KVCC for 2 years taking a variety of classes including business, marketing and administration. Successful business owner for over 45 years, 2 terms as county commissioner, 3 years on Kalamazoo Christian School Board, 6 years in the Army National Guard, Past President of Kalamazoo Valley Plant Growers and served as elder and deacon many times over the years in my church. Email: roger@tuinierbrothersgreenhouse.com. Phone: (269) 381-2811.

- (a) Continue to be fiscally responsible with taxpayer dollars that the board is entrusted with. (b) Successfully hire a new County Administrator. (c) Build trust between commissioners and administration, Complete the E-911 consolidation. Use our time and resourses wisely and accomplish much.
- 5 years in county government as an administrator or assistant administrator. One who understands finances and has participated in collective bargaining. Open minded, respectful of others, including employees, commissioners, other elected officals and the all citizens of Kalamazoo County. This person should have a Bachelors and a Masters degree Public Administration. The Administrator and Commissioners need to open and honest with each other to be able accomplish what needs to be done.
- Keep taxes as low possible and not sacrifice services,(spend taxpayer dollars wisely). Do what we can to attract new business into Kalamazoo County as well as encourage current companies to expand within our county. We can accomplish this through promoting quality growth and still respect local control and proper land use.

Kalamazoo County Commission, continued

Pat Clark

Democrat. Age 56. Director of Client Services, QM and Training. Attended EMU, WMU and KVCC. Village Trustee in Climax since 2012, member of the CAA Community Advisory Board. Website: <http://patclark.us>. Email: patclark4kzoo@gmail.com. Facebook: <http://Pat Clark for Kalamazoo County Commission>. Phone: (269) 967-3390.

1. (a) Roads. (b) Fair and equitable distribution of services throughout the entire county. (c) Address the systemic issues of the Administration by fairly and sufficiently recognizing any problems and tackling these in a decisive manner. The ability to address what I believe to be systemic issues within the Administration must be identified by an outside source and the Board of Commissioners must be empowered to address and make the necessary changes to make positive movement for the County whereby needed services may be delivered without interruption in a fair and equitable manner. This is critical to restore the trust and belief in the BOC.
2. Most important is fearless leadership and experience at a level consistent with the Kalamazoo County Administrator's role. The new Administrator may be faced with necessary changes as a result of the systemic problems too long overlooked and unaddressed. The ability of this person to confidently partner with the BOC in creating a better culture and process is important. Without the support and partnership of the BOC there can be no substantial change. The problems recently (and not so recently) experienced may be attributed to a pervasive culture of a few key administrative staff but can be reversed with the right leadership and BOC support.
3. The ability of the BOC to step outside of the status quo and look for bold solutions which may serve the County in the long run but may be seen as contrary to existing structures will be important. With new BOC leadership, new Commissioners and a continual eye toward the vision of stable and sustained economics this may be achieved. Assessing the existing properties of the County and prioritizing which may be diverted to function in a different manner or even the possibility of placing the property on the tax roles again by selling it may be a start to appropriate land use.

DISTRICT 8

Townships of Brady, Pavilion, Prairie Ronde, Schoolcraft
City of Portage precinct 2

John Gisler

Republican. Age 72. Kalamazoo County Commissioner - District 8 - South County. AB Wabash College, Zoology/Chemistry. MBA Syracuse University, Finance. Kalamazoo County Commissioner 2011-2012 and 2015-2016. Extensive business experience in the pharmaceutical industry, including 14 years as a manager with responsibility for multi-million-dollar budgets. Email: jgisler5@comcast.net. Phone: (269) 323-0259.

1. (a) Maintain Kalamazoo's strong financial position among Michigan's 83 counties without raising taxes. (b) Scrutinize every expenditure of taxpayer dollars. (c) Limit government intrusion into our daily lives and encourage personal responsibility and individual freedom. My years as a manager with budget responsibility coupled with my MBA in Finance will enable me to help keep Kalamazoo one of the most fiscally sound counties in the state. The county commission will be challenged to balance budgets in the face of an anemic national economic recovery. Some services may have to be reduced or even eliminated. Taxes should not be increased
2. The next County Administrator must be strong fiscally. His/Her first priority must be to maintain Kalamazoo as one of the most fiscally strong counties in Michigan. Secondly, the next County Administrator must be an excellent communicator. He/She must communicate clearly and concisely with citizens, county staff, other members of local governments and county commissioners. The relationship between the County Administrator and the Commission should resemble that of a private firm's CEO and the Board of Directors.
3. The county's economic base will strengthen and stabilize, if we minimize incentives offered to new businesses. Cooperation and collaboration among units of local government may be necessary to attract business, but there must be a limit to our collective generosity. There may be some businesses we simply cannot afford to attract. We should also ensure that any promised new jobs actually result. Any shortfall in promised new jobs should result in a claw-back of the incentives offered to attract new businesses.

DISTRICT 9

Texas Township
Oshtemo Township precincts 4, 5, 7, 8

Dale Shugars

Republican. Age 63. Graduate from Portage Northern High School, BBA in Accounting and Political Science, from WMU, CPA, Certified Public Accountant, MI Registered, CAE, Certified Association Executive, ASAE. Current County Commissioner, Former State Senator, State Representative, Portage City Council- Mayor Pro Tem. Former Small Business Owner Board Member, Treasurer, Michigan Fitness Foundation, Member, MICPA PAC Past Board, Treasurer, MSAE, Past Board, Chair, Treasurer, MRC, Past Board, Treasurer, Urban Alliance, Past Board, Southwest MI Boy Scouts Member, Kalamazoo Area Runners. Email: daleshugars@gmail.com. Phone: (269) 207-5275.

1. (a) Bring fiscal responsible leadership to all aspects of the County operations. (b) Develop trust within the Commission and Administration. (c) Create task forces to study and prepare solutions to challenging issues To accomplish these priorities the Commission and Administration needs to spent more time developing trust and improving communications. Working together and taking the time to understand each Commissioner's agenda and building consensus on issues, would bring a unity of purpose for the Commission. We need to prevent Commissioners who like to micro manage department heads! This undermines the lines of governance and management.
2. Experience- 5 or more years in leadership role in MI County Government: managed department heads, demonstrated a strong understanding of financial aspects of County operations, participated in collective bargaining, has respect for others and knows how to professionally delegate, motivate and hold accountable department heads and staff, has worked with a board, proven ability to communicate and speak well in public. Education- Bachelors degree and a Masters of Public Administration or equivalent, has demonstrated continuing education The Commission and Administrator develop trust and respect with each other while serving the citizens.
3. Work to keep the taxes and fees as low as possible while fulfilling the required services deemed by the State and Federal Governments. By having quality services with complete cost of living, we can attract businesses and residents while encouraging expansion

with current companies. (All which pay taxes!) Through quality growth and respect for local control, we can operate our County fiscally.

Emily Adams

Democrat. Age 26. Social Media Marketing at the United Way and Kalamazoo Youth Development Network. Bachelors in Communications from Albion College, Currently pursuing a Masters in Business Administration from Western Michigan University. I am passionate about the current political issues facing Kalamazoo County. My volunteer work with the Kalamazoo County Democratic Party has been valuable on and off the campaign field. I have expanded upon my experience while working at United Way. My experience has shaped excellent people skills and ability to work well in diverse groups. Both important skills for making a positive impact. Website: <http://emily-adams.ruck.us/>. Email: eadams4county@gmail.com. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/eadams4county/>. Phone: (269) 268-2355.

1. First, I will add value and creativity to the Kalamazoo County Board. If elected, I would be the youngest person serving on the Board and would therefore bring a new perspective and voice to county leadership. Second, I will cultivate a culture of inclusiveness in the decision making process. Many important conversations never happen because citizens are left out. Using social media, smart technology, and public meetings, I will make the board more accessible to all constituents. Third, I will cultivate leadership that steps away from divisive party politics to focus on the real issues.
2. Kalamazoo County's next administrator should have knowledge of this community and the ways in which our county government interacts with municipalities as well as the State of Michigan and federal government. I envision an administrator with the leadership skills necessary to work with the board of commissioners in a way that will encourage bipartisan teamwork and collaboration. An administrator is largely a supervisor of others in their day to day work. We need an inspiring leader who will build a healthy work environment that makes county employees feel welcome and empowered.
3. To improve the stability of the County's economic base, I will work to grow Kalamazoo County as a startup friendly environment to diversify business opportunities. By fostering an environment where small businesses and startups can thrive, we can create jobs, diversify markets, and drive the economy forward. We do not need to expand urban sprawl in the county if we utilize the brownfield redevelopment sites and repurpose historic and/or vacant buildings.

DISTRICT 10

City of Portage precincts 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18

Jerry Whitaker

Republican. Age 54. CEO-Whitaker LaChance Insurance Agency Senior Partner-Acrisure. Olivet Nazarene University- 1984 Major-Business Marketing, Minor-Economics & Communications. 26 Yr Business Owner. Board Member-Kalamazoo Area Christian Retirement Association. Board Member-Western Michigan Home Builders Association. Senior Officer-Home Builders Association of Michigan. Former Board Trustee & Vice President-Portage Public School Board. Former Board Chair-Kalamazoo Gospel Mission. Former Board Chair-Alternatives Women's Care Center. Member & Former Deacon-Calvary Bible Church. Email: gwhitaker1962@att.net. Phone: (269) 324-6993.

1. (a) Support Law Enforcement for our citizens to make Kalamazoo County a safer place to work and live. (b) Health Care Services delivery for the county. (c) Responsible tax policy. To support Law Enforcement, Kalamazoo County needs to get in place a county wide 911 system. The ability to have a strong law enforcement presence is an excellent deterrent to crime. Our 4 cities, 5 villages and 15 townships, deserve a world class law enforcement system that is responsive to meet the changing needs of our county.
2. Servant Leadership. We need someone to lead our county in a more sensible direction. Someone who has the experience to work with the Commission and has the type of visionary leadership that can chart a path for fiscal responsibility, transparency and growth. The lack of leadership and lack of board support, has left the current Interim County Administrator without authority to make decisions. I envision the Commission and administrator working together to bring responsiveness to County Government. The current "micro-management and direct contact by some current is Commissioners is not conducive to good governance.
3. The Kalamazoo County Commission needs to work with our local business, government, law enforcement, education community, and organizations like Southwest Michigan First, to make sure Kalamazoo County is "Open for Business" by having strong county government, low taxes and a safe county to work and live. The Commission can work to improve our economic and regional development by promoting pro-growth tax policy and by offering stability to our county. By improving our law enforcement support, infrastructure and working together, we can make sure Kalamazoo County is the choice for stability and growth.

Mike Quinn

Democrat. Age 69. Co-owner, Shamrock Montessori Center. B.A. Applied Mathematics, Western Michigan University, 1991; M.S. Statistics, Western Michigan University, 1998. County Commissioner, 2009-2010; Chairman, County Veterans' Affairs Committee; Member, Portage Board of Review for property taxes; United States Marine Corps, active 1966-69, Vietnam veteran, honorable discharge as Sergeant, E-5; Returned Peace Corps Volunteer - Nicaragua 1975-77; Statistician, Summit Polymers, until 2009. Website: <http://Quinn4kcounty.org>. Email: miked-quinn@sbcglobal.net. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Mike-Quinn-for-Kalamazoo-County-Commissioner-504900396385055/>. Phone: (269) 267-2880.

1. First, select and hire a new County Administrator. Some study and reflection on the conduct and results of the process last year could provide helpful insights. Establishing trust and building solid working relationships among the members of the new board will improve the likelihood of a successful outcome. Second, maintain and enhance essential county services and our valuable infrastructure, and third, to ensure that our tax dollars are utilized for the greatest benefit of all county residents.
2. Beyond the basics of integrity and ability in public administration, I'd like to see commitment to our community and the leadership strengths to ensure that every department of our county government is focussed on the mission of responsible, efficient service to county residents. County Administrator is a high-profile, high-pressure, high-responsibility position. He or she will report to a diverse and not-always-unified board of commissioners, which experiences some turnover every other year. The new administrator must enjoy the support of the board and have the resources to do the job. Communication will be immensely important.
3. Emphasis should be on support for local entrepreneurs. Stryker, the greenhouses, the micro-

Kalamazoo County Commission, continued

breweries, and plastic molders are some of the powerful economic engines in our community that grew up right here, and are continuing to innovate and grow. The Commission can continue to work with organizations such as Western’s Business Technology & Research Park, the SBA, and local financial institutions to assist a broad range of emerging ventures. Regarding appropriate land use, the Commission does have an important role in supporting the remediation, reclamation, and reuse of brownfield sites.

DISTRICT 11

City of Portage precincts 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 15, 17, 20

Scott McGraw

Republican. Age 55. Business Owner: Graduate, Portage Central High School; Graduate, Western Michigan University; Major: English with a Writing Emphasis; Minors: Journalism and General Business. Incumbent Commissioner, 11th District. Road Commission liaison, Austin Lake Governmental Board, Long Lake Governmental Board, City of Kalamazoo Local Development Finance Authority, City of Portage Local Development Finance Authority, Portage Downtown Development Authority, South Central Michigan Michigan Planning Council, Former board member of Love INC, Member of Portage Rotary. Phone: (269) 548-7004.

- (a) Instill accountability within the organization through strengthening its management structure. Having been without an administrator for two years, the county is in dire need for leadership. A professional administrator will go a long way to providing direction and stability. (b) Work collaboratively with other governmental bodies to find ways to improve services to give the citizens greater value for their tax money. There are many areas we could explore for collaboration, including possible metro police force, 911 dispatch and water-wastewater authority. (c) Improve the budgeting process to mandate a balance budget and priority-based techniques.
- Kalamazoo’s next administrator needs to be professionally trained in the county government field. I believe a master’s degree or equivalent work experience is warranted by the stature of this position. We need someone who can guide the county through the challenges that a governmental organization faces and has the insight to anticipate problems and not be reactionary. I believe candidates for this position should have a portfolio of accomplishments within a growing history of responsibilities. This is an important job for the county and we cannot take the responsibility of finding the right person lightly - or let politics play a role.

- One of Kalamazoo County’s challenges – and a major obstacle for the City of Kalamazoo – is amount of taxable land on our tax rolls. The City has more than 50% of its total parcels off the tax rolls, and that impacts the county as well. We have to work collaboratively to bring jobs into the county and the city. The central city can be vital area for growth of commercial and residential properties. There are partnerships and alliances that can bring the momentum back to this downtown area and we must work to maximize these relationships. Also, we must keep our taxes low to attract new business to the area, both commercial and industrial.

Jason Foster

Democrat. Age 33. Account Manager for Bearing Distributors Incorporated servicing Southwest Michigan. I have a Bachelor of Arts in History with a minor in Business Administration from Dakota Wesleyan University. I have been serving the community for the last 4 years as member of the Lions Club and year and a half as a member of the Jaycees. I believe that my experience as a leader in our community will help me be the representative the people of Portage want. Website: <http://jasonfoster.ruck.us>. Email: vote4jasonfoster@gmail.com. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/votejasonfoster/>.

- My number one priority is getting our 911 dispatch consolidated. The current system in which every municipality has their own dispatch is not only costly but also unsafe. My plan is to work with the other elected officials in the county to ensure that we can bring all the dispatch centers under one roof, so our county can be safer. I also want to get a LGBT non-discrimination ordinance, similar to the one recently passed by Portage, for the county. My third priority is to put together a sustainability plan for the county, that will not only reduce the counties energy consumption, but will pay for itself and bring savings to the county.
- The most important qualification needed in our next county administrator is managerial leadership experience. Kalamazoo County has a high employee turnover rate, spending the taxpayers money to repeatedly hire and train new people. This money could be used to bring new or better services to the county. I envision the county administrator working with the county commission to identify the issues causing employees to leave, so they can be effectively addressed.
- I think the best step the County Commission can take to strengthen diversity is to pass the non-discrimination ordinance that I listed as one of my top priorities. When we ensure that all people feel welcome and respected, we create a community that will help companies recruit top talent, so they can grow and bring more job opportunities to Kalamazoo County.

Michigan Supreme Court Justice

Duties: The Michigan Supreme Court is the state’s highest court and makes the final determination and interpretation of Michigan’s laws. It supervises all other state courts. The court has 7 members.

Questions

- What experiences (educational, occupational, civic and community) do you feel have helped qualify you for this judicial office?
- The bipartisan Michigan Judicial Selection Task Force recommended full disclosure of campaign funding, nominations to Supreme Court by nonpartisan primary, and an advisory

- commission for gubernatorial appointments. What are your views on these recommendations?
- What, in your opinion, are the greatest areas of need/challenge in the Michigan justice system, and how should the Supreme Court respond to them?

Eight-year (full) term Vote for One

Doug Dern

Did not respond in time to be included.

Frank Szymanski

Wayne County 3rd Circuit Court Judge. High School: Austin H.S., Detroit, MI (June 1970); College: University of Notre Dame (1970-1974); Law School: University of Detroit School of Law (1977-1980) magna cum laude & Other graduate studies. Website: frankszymanskiforjustice.com. Facebook: <http://judgefrankforjustice>. Twitter: twitter.com/askjudgefrank.

- I have been elected and served 10 years as a Juvenile Court Judge for Wayne County Circuit Court. I have 26 years experience as a trial attorney in all levels of trial courts. In the juvenile court, I’ve worked on some of the most troubling cases in our community. I am the author of IDENTITY DESIGN, a guide to powerful and generous living. Hearing about the challenges faced by the most vulnerable members of our community has taught me to be an advocate for justice and opportunity for all. As an award winning jurist I have started numerous community programs supporting education and effective rehabilitation.
- I support full transparency regarding campaign funding because the people have a right to know the source of funds supporting our government officials. Full disclosure allows for a more informed choice by voters because without this, voters are unable to “consider the source” of campaign messages. Non-partisan primary nominations for Supreme Court provide a more neutral, voter friendly procedure for selecting nominees for the Court. Establishing an advisory commission on gubernatorial appointments broadens the appointment process and I also support this change.
- Education resources in Michigan are inadequate in a number of our communities. A quality education is a right, not a privilege, and the Court can protect this right. The State Appellate Defender Office reports millions of dollars in costs to the state based on sentencing errors. We need fair representation to avoid erroneous sentences and save millions for our taxpayers. Michigan spends less up front on Indigent representation than other states and we pay for it in the long run. We need to decriminalize mental illness and have more treatment courts, such as for veterans and human trafficking victims.

David Viviano

Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. B.A., Hillsdale College; J.D., University of Michigan Law School. Website: <http://vivianoforjustice.com/>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JusticeDavidViviano>. Twitter: twitter.com/JusticeViviano.

- In addition to my service on the Michigan Supreme Court, I served as a trial judge and later as the Chief Judge of Macomb County, where I led one of the largest trial courts in Michigan. In addition, I managed a busy docket consisting of civil and criminal matters. I have very diverse legal experience, having worked for two nationally-recognized law firms and started my own firm before taking the bench. I am running for re-election because I believe that I have the moral foundation, legal training, and life experience to serve as a thoughtful, passionate, and principled justice.

- I favor our current judicial selection system, but acknowledge the continuing public debate on how it can be improved. While I agree that substituting the partisan nominating process for open, nonpartisan primaries could reduce the appearance of partisanship, it could also increase the amount of money in judicial elections. And, as a candidate, I am already required to disclose all of my campaign contributions and expenditures. In the end, any proposal for changing how we select our judges is inherently a policy choice that should be made by the people through their representatives or popular referendum.
- A significant problem facing our court system relates to how our courts are funded. Under the current system, courts are primarily funded at the local level. Local control has many virtues, but this framework makes it difficult to implement statewide reforms. We are currently working to improve our public defense system and have made significant advancements in the areas of e-filing and administrative consolidation. However, to implement new technologies and make reforms on a statewide basis, we need to work with the Legislature to obtain statewide funding or rethink the way we fund our court system.

Two-year (partial) term Vote for one

Joan Larsen

Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. B.A., with Highest Honors, University of Northern Iowa; J.D., magna cum laude, Northwestern University School of Law. Website: justicejoan.com. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/justicejoanlarsen/>. Twitter: twitter.com/JusticeJoan4MI.

- My tenure as Justice of the Supreme Court, as well as my diverse legal career, has prepared me to grapple with the high-level legal questions that confront us on the Court. My clerkship on the U.S. Supreme Court instilled in me the importance of upholding the rule of law and judging each case fairly. My mix of private practice with the nationally renowned law firm of Sidley Austin, public service as Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the U.S. Department of Justice, and teaching at the University of Michigan Law School has equipped me to handle complex legal questions with judgment and integrity.
- Our judicial selection process, like all aspects of government, must be subject to review and debate. We should always strive to improve the system to ensure that we select judges of the highest caliber and integrity and to ensure informed public participation in the process. I believe the Task Force’s recommendations should be given careful consideration. As with all policy questions, a sitting Justice is constrained in response. Whether to adopt the recommendations is a choice our process trusts to the citizenry, not to judges, either through popular referendum or through their representatives in the legislature.
- One challenge is how to handle non-violent criminal offenders with special characteristics. Michigan has been at the forefront of creating problem-solving courts for such offenders, including Veterans Treatment Court, Drug Court, and Mental Health Court. The result has been reduced recidivism and unemployment, savings to taxpayers, and restoration of families and communities. As the Supreme Court’s liaison to the problem-solving courts, I am proud of the way we have supported and encouraged these courts. We need to continue to promote the growth of the courts and to support the individuals that make them work.

Michigan Supreme Court Justice, continued

Kerry L Morgan

Attorney. Regent University, M.A. Public Policy, magna cum laude, 1985. Detroit College of Law, J.D., 1981. Michigan State University, B.A. Political Science and Criminal Justice, honors, 1977. Website: <https://www.politicalbank.com/find-candidates/kerry-lee-morgan>.

1. The Supreme Court needs Justices who will apply the law as written according to the meaning of the people who adopted it, not as it ought to be written in the mind of the Judge. My background in the law for over thirty years has taught me the importance of this purpose. My experience in the practice of law before judges has taught me that appellate judges may be reluctant to simply apply the law as written. I can bring a balanced respect for the written law and the Constitution in particular, to the bench so that Justice may be done.
2. The current method of selecting Justices at Convention is fine. Instituting primary elections for the Supreme Court would actually increase campaign expenditures at both a primary and general election. It would also strengthen two party and political control of the bench. Both results are harmful to the public because they further enhance the two party grip on the judicial branch and deprive the People of real choice of judges at the polls.
3. The future of the judicial system is for the People to decide, but that future must recover a solid commitment to the rule of law, not the law of judges. Michigan Lawyers must also be freed from the politicized State Bar of Michigan, by elimination of its compulsory membership requirements. The Supreme Court should be leading this fight. Instead, it sides with the Bar in trampling down a lawyer's right of association and in compelling lawyers to pay money to the Bar for the propagation of ideas with which they disagree. Securing rights, not their abridgment, is the State's only compelling interest.

Deborah Thomas

Third Judicial Circuit Court Judge. J.D., Valparaiso University School of Law, 1977; M.A., University of Detroit, 1976; B.A. Western Michigan University, 1973; Diploma, Cass Tech High School. Website: <http://www.judgedeborahthomas.com/>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/elect-judgedebthomas>. Twitter: twitter.com/JudgeD_Thomas.

1. I have 37 years of legal experience, 16 as a practicing attorney and 21 as a Jurist. Further, I have been very pro-active in seeking out opportunities to engage within Michigan's communities and Civic Leaders to promote access to and understanding of our justice system. I continue to travel across the state fulfilling my responsibility as an elected leader and ensure transparency of justice to all communities, regardless of economic well-being.
2. Full disclosure of a candidate's campaign funding should be viewed as the norm. Disclosing campaign finance activities fully and timely demonstrates strong integrity. Having a political party name their nominees for Supreme Court denies the people of retaining their full right of selection at the polls during a statewide Primary Election. Gubernatorial appointment removes voters from determining who will serve them. Further, granting either appointed or elected judges with incumbency designation simply complicates a voter's choice during voting and seems to favor governmental sanctioning of one candidate over another.
3. Our justice system needs better access to justice for all. There is such a disparity in the level of representation between Attorneys funded by the courts versus those who retain counsel. Access to good representation is riddled with unequal access to experts and defenses that require more sophisticated approaches. Similarly, the plaintiff seeking justice is reduced to taking what they can get when faced with the possibility of paying the other sides ballooning legal bills. The Supreme Court could ensure better parity in properly funding indigent defense and encourage use of alternative dispute resolution programs.

Michigan Court of Appeals – District 1

Six-year (full) term Vote for up to two

Description: The Michigan Appeals Court is the primary appeals court of the state.

Questions

1. What experiences (educational, occupational, civic and community) do you feel have helped qualify you for this judicial office?
2. Describe in lay terms what the Court of Appeals does and the challenges facing it. How would you propose to ameliorate them?
3. What, in your opinion, are the greatest areas of need in the Michigan justice system, and how should the judicial system respond to them?

Nicole James

Attorney/Owner-The Law Offices of Nicole L. James, PLLC. Thomas Cooley Law School, Michigan State University, Osborn High School (Detroit). Wayne County Prosecutor's Office Assigned to the Special Victims Unit prosecuting homicide cases that occurred as a result of domestic violence. Other assignments include: the Appellate Division, the Homicide Unit, the Juvenile Unit, Warrant and District Court Section and General Trials Division. The Law Offices of Nicole L. James full service firm handling criminal, family, and probate cases. Website: www.electnicole-james.com. Facebook: <http://electnicolejames>.

1. For more than 15 years I worked as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. There I worked as a trial attorney in the domestic violence unit fighting for women, children, and families. I also worked in the homicide unit fighting to keep dangerous individuals off the streets. In addition I worked in the Appeals Unit where I drafted briefs and argued cases before the Michigan Court of Appeals. Two years ago I opened my own office where I handle family, probate, and criminal defense. All these are subject matters which would come before the Court of Appeals.
2. The Court of Appeals is an intermediate level court which hears decisions from final orders from lower court decisions. People are most familiar with the court of appeals in the criminal arena. For example, if a person is convicted of a crime in a criminal case, they can appeal their case to the court of appeals. Challenges that the court faces is operating in a timely and efficient manner. The biggest challenge is the volume of cases that come before the court and getting those before the court timely. One of the steps to achieving this goal is to move to an electronic filing system, which will eliminate delay.
3. The Court of Appeals needs to be much more accessible. People in criminal court know about the appeals process but when you talk about other areas like civil, family, probate, people are not as familiar. Those cases do not go to the Court of Appeals at the same rate as criminal cases. Judges serve at the pleasure and privilege of the people; therefore, the court should be people friendly.

Cynthia Diane Stephens

Judge Michigan Court of Appeals First District. JD Gambrell School of Law, Emory University. 1976 Graduate Studies Atlanta University. BA University of Michigan 1971. I served as a judge for 34 years in District Circuit and the COA. Prior to judicial service my legal experience included serving as Associate General Counsel for the Michigan Senate, Vice-chair of the Wayne County Charter Commission and consultant for the National League of Cities Veterans Discharge Upgrade project. I have taught at UDM Law school for over 20 years. Website: Judgecynthiadianestephens.com. Facebook: <http://ReElectCynthiaDianeStephens>.

1. I have been privileged to serve in and for all three branches of government and garner a rich understanding of the role of each. My civic involvement has been broad including organizations focused on youth (YWCA, Metro Detroit Girl Scouts), social reform and service (New Detroit, Greater Detroit Area Healthcare Council), spiritual life (Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ). As an educator I have had the opportunity to participate in legal education (UDM, Wayne, DCL law school faculty), continuing legal education (ICLE, National Bar Legal Institute), and judicial education in the US and Africa.

2. Ours is an error correcting court. It is our duty to review administrative and judicial proceedings to ascertain if errors were made procedurally and legally and to offer some guidance on the application of new laws and procedures on which neither our court nor the Supreme Court have issued such guidance. We have very limited original jurisdiction as with Headlee issues. We , also have the responsibility for cases brought against the State of Michigan, its' officers and departments (including universities) as the Court of Claims. We share with all of government the challenge to maximize the people's resources.
3. I would highlight 3 areas of need: tools to assist the under-represented and unrepresentative litigants, systems to make the best use of technology and processes that allow us to be nimble and adaptive. The number of persons who appear before the administrative and judicial tribunals of this state without any legal representation for matters such as child custody and support is growing within a system that is built on the presence of legally trained persons. It is likely that technology will increase access to justice for unrepresented persons if they and we are technologically competent and flexible.

Kurtis T. Wilder

Judge, Michigan Court of Appeals since 1998. The University of Michigan: A.B. Political Science, 1981; J.D. 1984. The National Judicial College, General Jurisdiction, Financial Statements in the Courtroom, 1993. Private law practice from 1984-1992, representing persons sued for negligence, and handling employment discrimination and commercial litigation claims. Circuit Judge from 1992-1998 (Chief Judge 1996-1998), presiding over felony criminal motions, trials and sentencing, civil and family law disputes, and election law claims. Court of Appeals since 1998. Former Chair Michigan Judges Association.

1. As a trial judge for nearly 7 years, a chief judge of a trial court, and an appeals judge for more than 17 years, I am experienced and well qualified to continue to serve the citizens of Michigan in my current position. I also served as chair of Michigan's Community Corrections Advisory Board, providing alternatives to incarceration for persons able to be rehabilitated. I have also served the community in many ways, as a member of many nonprofit boards such as Red Cross, Interlochen, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation, and as an Elder at First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth.
2. When a lower court trial or hearing contains errors of law or procedural errors resulting in substantially unjust outcomes, the Court of Appeals corrects those errors by making a correct statement of law, or sending the matter back to the lower court for retrial or rehearing using the correct law or procedure. The Court of Appeals continues to decide cases more quickly and effectively. Our task remains as it always has, reviewing each case carefully and in a timely manner, treating all litigants and lawyers with dignity and respect, and deciding cases consistent with federal and Michigan Constitution and laws.
3. Many citizens do not have the resources to take a case from trial through the appeals court. In addition, the use of more technology to increase efficiency and reduce costs makes access to the justice system difficult for citizens who are not technologically savvy. I continue to believe that funding for legal services for the poor is a responsible way of giving those who have little, equal access to the courts. Finally, criminal justice reform is important to a just and safe society. Helping those who can be rehabilitated, find jobs and be productive, will reduce crime and help stabilize communities and families.



10 Reasons to Vote

1. Your vote does count.
2. Democracy only works if we vote.
3. If you don't vote, others decide your future.
4. You cannot change a situation by ignoring it.
5. Voting is power.
6. Elections determine leaders and politics.
7. Without your vote, your voice will not be heard.
8. When you don't vote, special interests take control.
9. If you don't vote, don't complain.
10. People have died for the freedom to vote.

KALAMAZOO COUNTY PRECINCT LOCATIONS

Polls Open Tuesday, November 8, 2016 —7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Alamo Township

- #1 Township Hall 7901 North 6th St.
- #2 Alamo Community Church 7925 North 6th St.

Brady Township

- #1 Township Hall 13123 South 24th St.
- #2 Chapman Memorial Church 7520 East U Ave.

Charleston Township

- #1 Township Hall 1499 South 38th St.

Climax Township

- #1 Township Hall 110 North Main St.

Comstock Charter Township

- #1 Comstock Community Center6330 King Highway
- #2 Township Hall 6138 King Highway
- #3 Comstock Christian Reformed Church 5300 Comstock Ave.
- #4 Northeastern Baptist Church 6536 East G Ave.
- #5 New Life Victory Church 2775 South 26th St.
- #6 Kalamazoo Community Church2435 North 26th St.
- #7 Northeastern Baptist Church 6536 East G Ave.
- #8 Church of God Family Worship Center 5841 East H Ave.

Cooper Charter Township

- #1 Township Hall 1590 West D Ave.
- #2 Fire Station #2 3160 McKinley St.
- #3 Spring Valley Wesleyan Church 5240 Mt. Olivet Rd.
- #4 North Bridge Church 8824 Douglas Ave.
- #5 Cooper’s Landing Apartments Community Room 5001 Cooper’s Landing

Kalamazoo Charter Township

- #1 Lakewood Fire Station..... 3100 Lake St.
- #2 Northwood Fire Station 2617 N. Burdick St.
- #3 Grace Harbor Church 811 Gorham La.
- #4 West Main School Professional Development Center 1625 West Main St.
- #5 Westwood Fire Station 1310 Nichols Rd.
- #7 Hillside Middle School 1941 Alamo Ave.
- #8 Westland Meadows Community Room 4300 Leisure La.
- #9 Second Christian Reformed Church 3015 Nichols Rd.
- #10 Eastwood Fire Station 2703 East Main St.
- #11 Northeastern Elementary School.....2433 Gertrude St.
- #12 Sunnyside United Methodist Church2800 Gull Road

Oshtemo Charter Township

- #1 Township Hall 7275 West Main St.
- #2 Fire Station #2 3500 South 6th St.
- #3 People’s Church 1758 North 10th St.
- #4 Voyage Church – Fellowship Hall 6339 Atlantic Ave.
- #5 West Kalamazoo Christian Church (Lobby) 454 S. Drake Rd.
- #6 West Kalamazoo Christian Church (Auditorium) 454 S. Drake Rd.
- #7 Voyage Church - Gymnasium 6339 Atlantic Ave.
- #8 Oshtemo Community Center 6407 Parkview Ave.
- #9 Oshtemo Branch Library 7265 West Main St.
- #10 Oshtemo United Methodist Church 6574 Stadium Drive

Pavilion Township

- #1 Lakeland Reformed Church 10442 South Sprinkle Rd.
- #2 Country Christian Church.....9286 South 36th St.
- #3 Township Hall 7510 East Q Ave.

Prairie Ronde Township

- #1 Township Hall 8140 West W Ave.

Richland Township

- #1 Gull Lake United Methodist Church8640 Gull Road
- #2 Township Hall 7401 North 32nd St.
- #3 Haven Church 5350 North Sprinkle Rd.

Ross Township

- #1 Augusta Village Hall 109 W. Clinton St.
- #2 Yorkville Community Church 11523 East D Ave.

Schoolcraft Township

- #1 Township Hall 50 East VW Ave.
- #2 & 4 Ken Krum Recreational Center 519 East Clay St.
- #3 Vicksburg United Methodist Church 217 South Main St.

Texas Charter Township

- #1 Calvary Reformed Church 7829 South 5th St.
- #2 Township Hall – Lower Meeting Room 7110 West Q Ave.
- #3 M-Tec Center 7107 Elm Valley Dr.
- #4 & 5 Southridge Reformed Church 6726 Texas Drive
- #6 Calvary Reformed Church 7829 South 5th St.

Wakeshma Township

- #1 Township Hall 13988 South 42nd St.

Galesburg City

- #1 City Hall 200 E. Michigan Ave.

Kalamazoo City

- #1 & 3 First United Methodist Church.....212 S. Park St.
- #2 & 4 Bernhard Student Center Western Michigan University
- #5 Arcadia Elementary School 932 Boswell Lane
- #6 Friendship Village Kiva 1400 N. Drake Rd.
- #7 & 9 Douglass Community Association 1000 W. Paterson St.
- #8 & 27 Mt. Zion Baptist Church 120 Roberson St.
- #10 Spring Valley Center for Exploration 3530 Mt. Olivet Rd.
- #11 Eastside Community Center 1301 East Main St.
- #12 Oakwood Bible Church4100 Oakland Dr.
- #13 & 14 St. Joseph’s Catholic School – Bennett Building 930 Lake St.
- #15 Washington Writer’s Academy 1919 Portage St.Ave.
- #16 & 18 Milwood Christian Reformed Church 3306 Lovers Lane
- #17 Milwood United Methodist Church 3919 Portage St.
- #19 & 25 Southern Heights Christian Reformed Church 4141 E. Hillandale Dr.
- #20 Westnedge Hill Community Church 326 W. Cork St.
- #21 & 24 Girl Scouts Building 601 W. Maple St.
- #22 Winchell Elementary School 2316 Winchell Ave.
- #23 Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School 2321 S. Park St.
- #26 Parkview Hills Clubhouse 3707 Greenleaf Circle

Parchment City

- #1 Parchment United Methodist Church 225 Glendale Blvd.

Portage City

- #1 & 15 Portage Public Schools “Dog House” Multipurpose Gym ... 1000 Idaho Ave.
- #2 Goldentree Apartments Community Room 4795 E. Milham Rd.
- #3 Portage Senior Center 320 Library Lane
- #4 & #6 Lord of Life Lutheran Church 9420 Portage Road
- #5, 10 & 12 Portage Public Schools “Stable” Multipurpose Gym
8305 S. Westnedge Ave.
- #7 K-RESA Service Center 1819 E. Milham Rd.
- #8 & 14 Chapel Hill United Methodist Church..... 7028 Oakland Drive
- #9 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church 1747 W. Milham Ave.
- #11 & 19 Kalamazoo First Assembly of God 5550 Oakland Drive
- #13 St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church 1150 W. Centre Ave.
- #16 & 18 The Bridge Church 7200 Angling Road
- #17 Pathfinder Church 8740 S. Westnedge Ave.

Source: Kalamazoo County Clerk / Register Office